China TOURISM

SEPTEMBER 1993
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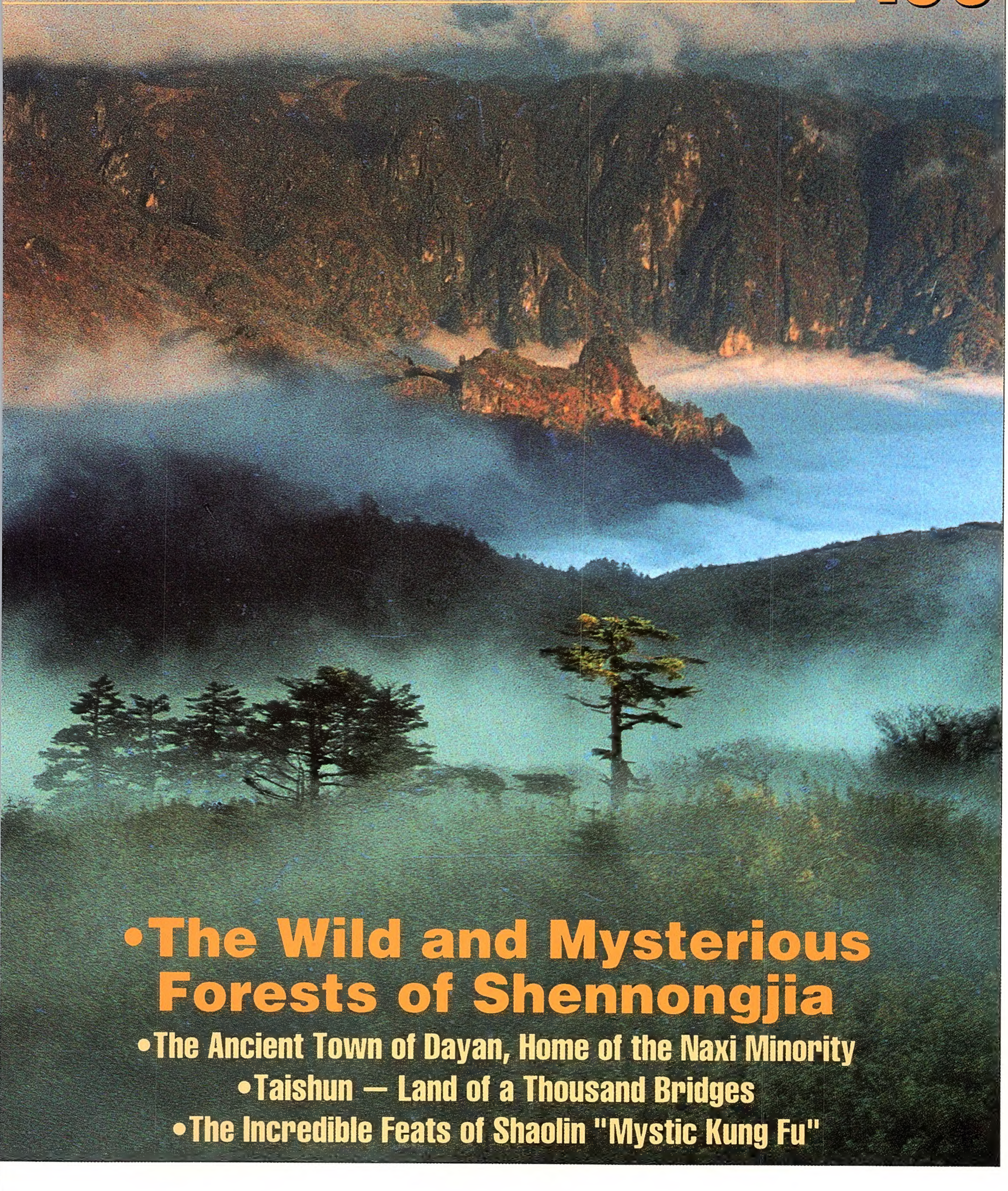

•The Wild and Mysterious Forests of Shennongjia

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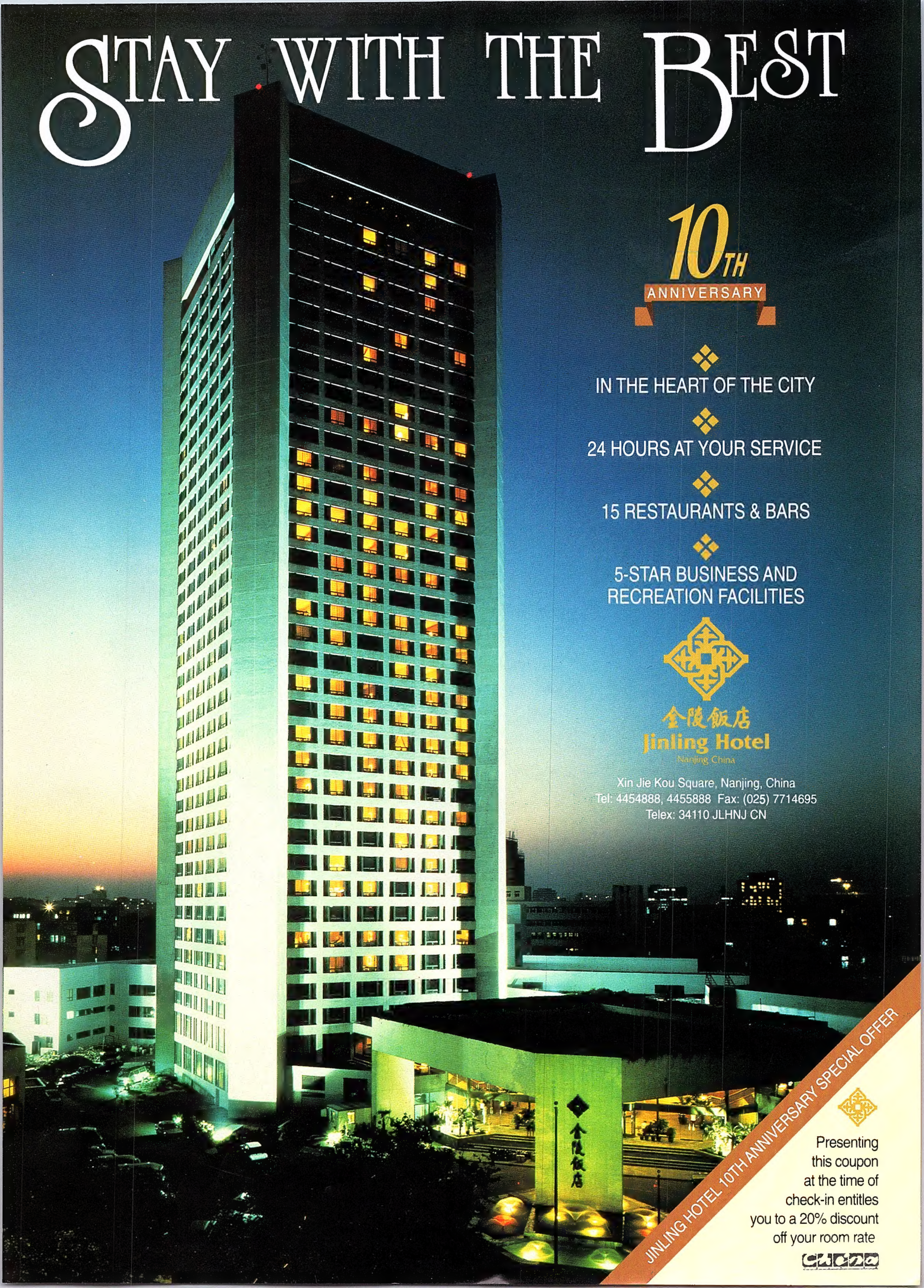

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EDITORIAL

The Magic of Mountains and Water

In the Chinese language there is a phrase used to describe travel – *youshan wanshui* – which can be literally translated as "tour mountains and play in the water". Mountains and water have long been revered by Chinese people as two of nature's most enchanting creations, and as one travels in China it is easy to see why. Some of the world's most fantastic mountain ranges and beautiful lakes are found here, serving as inspiration to both poets and painters for thousands of years. Even Confucius coined a phrase regarding mountains and water: "The wise enjoy the water; the benevolent enjoy the mountains." Indeed, throughout Chinese history philosophers and religious recluses tended to prefer living in remote mountain areas and near water, where they could commune with nature and enjoy peace and solitude.

In this issue of *China Tourism* we take you to one of China's most mysterious and ancient mountain areas – Shennongjia in western Hubei Province. These primitive forests and towering mountains have been in existence since long before the beginning of Chinese civilization. In fact the region is named after Shennong, the famous legendary emperor who went there to gather medicinal herbs, testing their properties by trying each one himself! The forests of Shennongjia are home to a large number of rare plants and animals, and may also be home to an as-yet-undiscovered species of "wild men".

If the exploration of ancient forests is not your style, perhaps visiting the town of Dayan in Yunnan's Lijiang Naxi Autonomous County would be of interest. Surrounded by towering snow mountains, this area is mainly inhabited by the Naxi minority, whose Dongba culture has been flourishing here for centuries. Water plays a particularly crucial role in Dayan, where in ancient times town planners set up an ingenious system of channels that bring water to each and every household.

Another town much influenced by both mountains and water is Taishun in southern Zhejiang Province. As the town is set amongst mountains, water continuously flows down forming countless streams and rivers. To cross these rivers the people of Taishun have become expert bridge builders, with the county boasting a total of some 1,000 bridges of various styles. The wooden bridges here are especially beautiful, as they all have traditional-style houses built over their entire length. Here one can also see stepping stone bridges, probably the first type of bridge ever constructed in China.

With summer at an end and the hot weather past, it is an ideal time for travel anywhere in China. And if Confucius' saying is true, whether you choose to go to the mountains or towards water might just indicate something about your personality!

THINGS CHINESE

The Fine Art of Making Huzhou Writing Brushes 58
Photos & Article by Xie Guanghui & Huang Lukui

CROSS-BORDER TRADE

Trade at the Sino-Russian Border Photos & Text by Peng Zhenge 70

PHOTOGRAPHER'S GALLERY 78

A LA CARTE

Recalling the Past at the Laocha Restaurant 80
Photos by Wong Chung Fai / Text by Liu Changzhong & Tian Fu

CONTENTS

No. 159 September 1993

LANDSCAPES AROUND CHINA

The Wild and Mysterious Forests of Shennongjia 8

Photos & Article by Xu Tiezheng

Located in the western part of Hubei Province, Shennongjia is one of China's most wild and untouched forest areas. For thousands of years Shennongjia has been home to rare species of plants and animals, and evidence has recently been discovered that could substantiate rumours of a species of "wild men" living there. Although tourist facilities are still quite basic, a trip to Shennongjia is an unforgettable experience.

THE WORLD OF MARTIAL ARTS

The Incredible Feats of Shaolin "Mystic Kung Fu" 28

Photos by Wang Yuejin
Article by Shi Bao Xiu & Wang Yuejin

Among the different types of martial arts taught at the famous Shaolin Temple is a form called "mystic kung fu", which involves extraordinary feats of strength and endurance. Training for these stunts takes years of practice and hard work, as well as a thorough understanding of how to regulate one's *qi*.

FOR THE COLLECTOR

ites All Over the Sky Photos by Wei Wangxiang / Text by Lu Yao 82

EXECUTIVE JOTTINGS

lajor Hotels in Hubei, Yunnan and Hebei Provinces 88
USINESS TIPS 90
RAVEL NOTES 91
EWS 100
EXT ISSUE 101

ront Cover: The mystical mountains and forests of Shennongjia *(by Xu Tiezheng)*

ANCIENT TOWNS & CIVILIZATIONS

The Ancient Town of Dayan, Home of the Naxi Minority 36

Photos by Peng Zhenge
Article by Peng Zhenge & Sun Jiong

Dayan is located in Yunnan Province's Lijiang Naxi Autonomous County, where the Naxi people have been living for centuries. This lovely town is surrounded by snow-covered mountains which provide water for every household via an ingenious system of water channels. Due to its beautiful setting and the fascinating Dongba culture of the Naxi people, Dayan has attracted scholars, travellers and even a world-famous actor who recently went there on holiday!

aishun – Land of a housand Bridges 62

hotos by Shao Jiaye / Article by Shi Bao Xiu

small county on the border of Zhejiang and Fujian rovinces, Taishun boasts nearly 1,000 bridges of ifferent architectural styles. These include arched nd flat wooden bridges, arched and flat stone ridges and stepping stone bridges, the latter of hich is possibly the first type of bridge ever onstructed in China.

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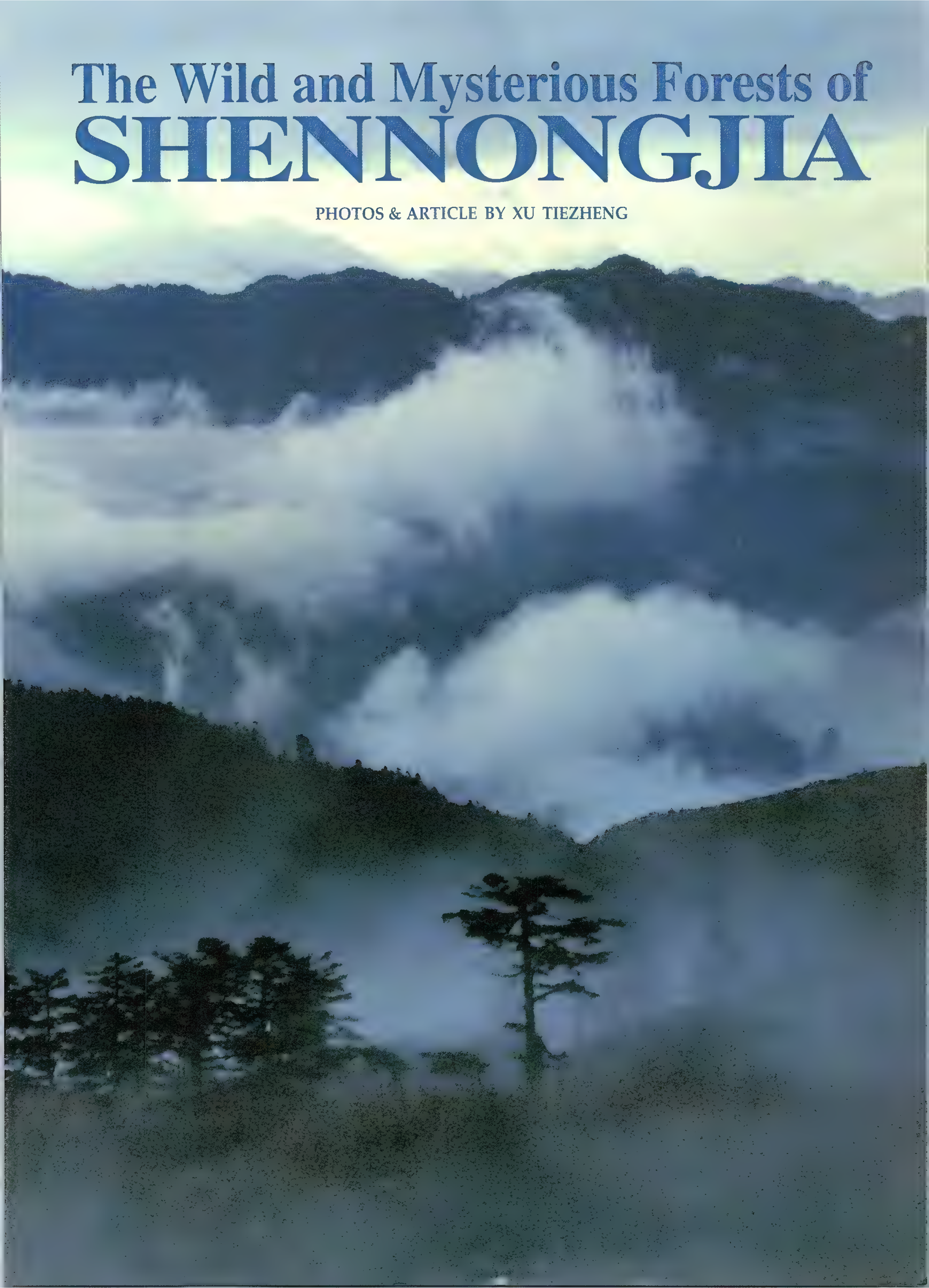
The unusual "waterfall of clouds" at Shennongjia slowly covers the mountains in a misty veil, adding an aura of mystery to the place.

The Wild and Mysterious Forests of SHENNONGJIA

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY XU TIEZHENG



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Magical and enchanting were the first words that came to mind when I saw the towering mountains and vast forests of Shennongjia. These dense primitive forests in the western part of Hubei Province have a high average rate of tree coverage of 68.5 per cent. Due to its lush vegetation and thriving wildlife, Shennongjia has been called "a green treasure trove" and "a natural zoological and botanical garden".

The Shennongjia Forest Region, or simply Shennongjia, derives its name from the legendary Shennong, also known as Emperor Yandi, who lived in the early years of Chinese civilization. According to popular belief, Shennong roamed this area searching for medicinal herbs to treat the sick. Shennong is considered China's first pharmacopoeian, and also is purported to have taught the Chinese people about agriculture thousands of years ago.

In addition, these beautiful mountains were home to the great poet Qu Yuan and the Han Princess Wang Zhaojun. There are many strange tales about these forests as well, such as rumours of "wild men" that live here. History and myth have combined to shroud the place in mystery, and this together with the wide variety of flora and fauna found here, is what makes Shennongjia utterly unique.

Shennongjia covers an area of 3,250 square kilometres and is home to over 2,400 kinds of plants, 570 species of animals and 800 types of wild flowers. It is one of China's State nature reserves and a member of the UN's "man and biosphere network". Over 60 ancient plants such as the dove tree and the gingko tree are classified as "living fossils". Golden-haired monkeys, leopards, white bears, white storks and other rare animals live here, and it is a common sight to see wild and domesticated animals grazing on the same slope. Wild animals even visit farming households, and golden-haired monkeys can be seen frolicking in the woods by the highways.

Shennongding, the highest peak in Shennongjia, soars 3,105 metres above sea level. Covered with a special kind of bamboo (*Sinarundinaria nitida*) and ancient pines, in spring it is especially beautiful, its slopes decked out in colourful rhododendrons.

It was Xu Tiezheng's love for Shennongjia that inspired him to learn photography. It began six years ago, when he bought four cameras and joined the Traditional Chinese Medicine Surveying Team on a two-year survey of Shennongjia. During the trip he travelled to every corner of Shennongjia, which covers an area of 3,250 square kilometres, and developed a strong attachment to the region.

In the past few years he has been to Shennongjia over 40 times, usually during holidays at his own expense, and has taken over 20,000 photos of these rarely seen forests. In order to get some of his shots, he had to undergo extraordinary hardships. For example, to take a picture of a natural phenomenon called "The instant when the sky clears" at the top of Shennongding, Mr. Xu spent four Spring Festivals in a row on Shennongding, which is covered with snow and ice and stands at a height of over 3,000 metres above sea level.

During the Spring Festival of 1988, he was stranded on the top of Shennongding for 21 days in a snowstorm in temperatures of -20°C. In the Spring Festival of 1991, he climbed alone in hip-deep snow to the top of Shennongding and stayed there for seven days and nights, cold and hungry. He nearly died due to loss of body fluids and edema of the entire body. Eventually, on the last day, he witnessed the natural wonder he had been waiting for for years. It only lasted for a few minutes, but the picture he took has now become a rare work of art.

When he was asked what he planned to do in the future, Mr. Xu said: "I want to publish a photographic album on nature and ecology."

So far Shennongjia has constructed more than 1,200 kilometres of highway and set up various tourist facilities. As a watershed between the Yangtse and Hanshui rivers, it is an area abundant in water and fertile soil. In summer the average temperature hovers around 20°C, making it an ideal resort area.

Exploring Shennongjia's Highest Peak

One fine day last August our nine-member survey team studying Shennongjia's Chinese medicinal herb resources went to explore the summit of Shennongjia's tallest peak. Our team included professors, scholars, zoologists and botanists. We were all very excited and curious about this magical peak: it is said that Shennong erected a ladder here by which he ascended to Heaven. Another legend says that in ancient times this was a "city of trees", meaning that there were so many trees the place was as well fortified as a walled city. We were also told that it is the habitat of a species of wild men, however no one has ever done scientific investigations into this question. Over the years these legends and stories have brought numerous Chinese and foreign explorers to the forests and mountains of Shennongjia.

Setting off from the town of Muyuping, our two jeeps went spiralling up the mountain. At 2,000 metres above sea level we came to the office of the Shennongjia Nature Reserve, where we went through the necessary paperwork. Our jeeps continued the ascent, passing gurgling streams and blossoming wild flowers. We stopped at a ravine called Honghuaying, and one of our drivers told us that we were at the foot of Shennongjia's main peak.

We made preparations for the climb. Looking to the east, a thick forest of fir trees silently kept guard over the various peaks of Shennongjia like a great green wall. Clusters of bamboo grew all over the main peak, with clumps of rhododendrons dotted amongst them. Though they were withering, the flowers, together with the

The four seasons are quite distinct in Shennongjia, with the different colours and landscapes changing from one fantastic scene to the next (1-4).

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ir trees and bamboo, created an indescribably beautiful sight.

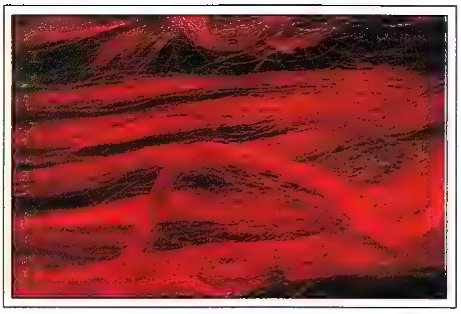
Led by our guide, we began our climb up to the peak. We soon came to an alpine meadow, the grass so soft it was like walkng on sponge. Beyond the meadow was a vast expanse of bamboo, and further on we saw soaring ancient trees and strangely-shaped rocks. One rock, called Shennong Rock, looked like an old man carrying a basket on his back. While we sat on the rock for a short rest, our guide told us stories about Shennong.

Shennong spent much time in these mountains, experimenting with all sorts of medicinal herbs and studying their properties. Certain rare medicinal herbs grew on precipices, so Shennong would cut down trees to make scaffolding in order to get to the herbs. Altogether he tried 70 kinds of toxic herbs, but each time he managed to find a remedy and cure himself. It s said that each of the 365 kinds of Chinese herbs recorded in China's earliest pharmaceutical encyclopaedia *Emperor Shennong's Materia Medica* were personally ested by Shennong. It was for the same eason that our team had come to Shennongjia: to study the natural resources available here for use in Chinese medicine.

New Discoveries

While looking for medicinal specimens mong the precipices, we suddenly spoted clumps of dark red plants with white blossoms growing in the rock crevices. They urned out to be a kind of stonecrop (*S. lbarseum*), a rare and valuable medicinal herb. Since they grew only on precipices, I was suspended by a rope to photograph hese exotic plants with a long-focus lens.

This type of stonecrop is generally found on the Tibetan plateau, in western Sichuan Province and in Siberia in Russia. Accordng to written records, it is said to nourish he kidneys and heart, calm the nerves, reduce fatigue, slow down aging and help people who are experiencing oxygen depivation. This medicine, often used to help people adapt to different environments, has ever been discovered at Shennongjia beore. Moreover, it has not been mentioned n any written records about Shennongjia, nor in books on Hubei Province. Besides its medicinal value, our discovery provides scientific data on the geography, climate, and vegetation of Shennongjia.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Hu Zhenlin, Deputy Director of the Research Institute of the Shennongjia Nature Reserve, has been doing outdoor surveys of this area for many years. In the early 1960s, while assisting in the work of opening up Shennongjia to tourists, he first entered the forest to do a highway survey. Later, on a winter evening in 1972, he discovered a trail of large footprints in the snow around the area of Badongya. The footprints were neither like a human's nor an animal's. He followed the footprints until he came to a bamboo grove, but failed to find any other traces of the "wild men" that are said to inhabit these forests. A few years later, he volunteered to join a surveying team. After the team ended its work, he lived alone in the mountains for several years hoping to solve the mystery of the "wild men" of Shennongjia.

Then on April 17, 1986, he discovered a strange heap of dung at a place called Luoquantao. After it was dried, the excrement was still 4.5 cm in diameter and weighed 371 g. When the excrement was tested, it was found to contain mainly pine-nuts from the Huashan Pine Tree. On the ground around the heap of dung there were also many opened pine nuts. Clues showed that the creature had climbed up the tree, picked the pine nuts, opened the nuts and ate the kernels. In Shennongjia, only bears and golden-haired monkeys can climb trees, however bears lack the intelligence to do this; while golden-haired monkeys are able to pick the nuts but lack the strength to crack them open. In addition, this excrement was found to differ from that of the golden-haired monkey, therefore it is quite possible that the excrement did indeed come from one of the "wild men" of Shennongjia.

7

Before reaching the summit we had to pass through a primitive forest consisting mainly of emerald green fir trees. The firs averaged 20 metres in height, the highest exceeding 30 metres. They had a diameter of about one metre, the thickest ones so big it took three people to encircle the trunk. Below 10 metres the trees seldom had branches, most of them being located on the upper parts.

Tier upon tier of interwoven branches veritably shut out all sunlight, and the ground was covered with a spongy layer of humus many centimetres thick. According to scientific theories, a tropical rain forest must have the following five characteristics: moss and lichen should grow in the spaces between trees, vines should be growing around trees, there should be naturally fallen trees, there should be fungus, and there should be ground vegetation and plants belonging to the orchid family.

Danger and Excitement on the Summit

After nearly three hours of climbing we finally reached the summit, where Professor Liu produced an altimeter and measured the height of the peak at 3,105 metres, just as we had been told. On the summit

(Continued on page 21)

Shennongding, the main peak at Shennongjia, is surrounded on all sides by other mountain peaks. The depressions between the mountains look as though they are covered with thick, soft grass, but it is actually bamboo forests twice a person's height (1). ▪ The Nature Reserve's Watch Tower stands at an altitude of 2,900 metres, where surveying teams make their base (2). ▪ From the top of the Watch Tower one can sometimes get a glimpse of "Buddha's halo"— when it seems that an image of Buddha can be seen in the clouds and fog (3). ▪ Here the shifting clouds move in the blink of an eye, giving the place an almost magical quality (4). ▪ It is said that the "wild men" of Shennongjia often pass by this strangely-shaped rock (5). ▪ Although there have been rumours about "wild men" living in the forests of Shennongjia, the only photo that has been taken is of their hair (6, by Li Delu). ▪ This scientific survey team plunges deep into the bamboo forests, hoping to uncover some of the mysteries of Shennongjia (7).

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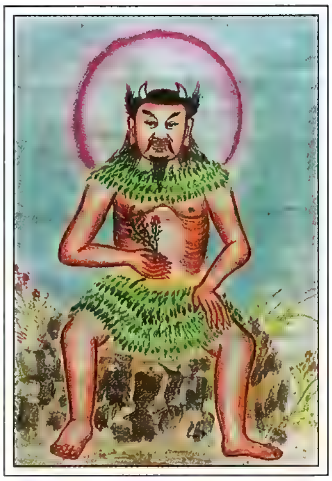
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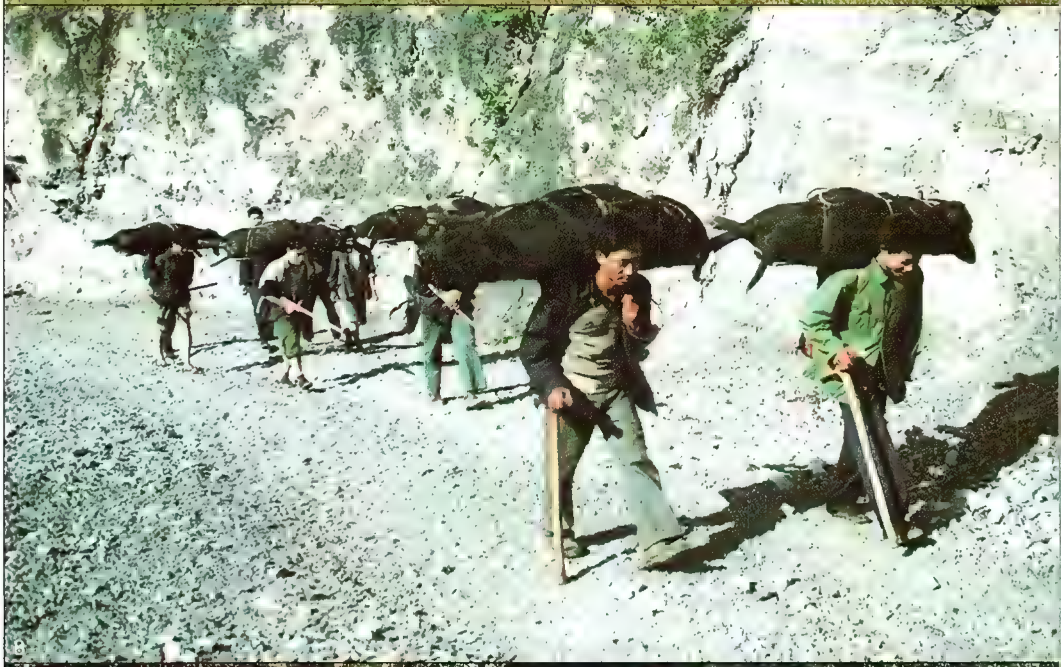
Shennongjia is a place steeped in legend, many elated to Shennong, shown above (5) in a painting one by a Taoist priest. One tale goes that once hile he was out collecting herbs, Shennong saw holy plant glittering on the top of a distant ountain. So he felled a tall old tree, created from 36 ladders, and climbed up the ladders for a day nd a night until he reached the mountaintop and ot the holy medicine. Later, the wood from the dders grew roots and leaves, finally becoming a ense primeval forest. Now when red clouds gather the sky in the morning, some say the ladders an still be seen.

Many rare plants such as gingko, dove trees nd edible funguses like tremella and glossy anoderma thrive here. There are about 2,000 fferent kinds of medicinal herbs and more than 00 species of wild animals, among which 20 pecies are rare animals protected by the State. any incredible tales about white animals, water onsters, unicorns and donkey-headed wolves, addition to the "wild men" stories, have been orn in this misty, primeval forest.

6

cenes of Shennongjia — where Nature revails and the hand of man is rarely seen -4). ▨ This Taoist priest is a Shennong evotee who lives in a mountain cave. He is ble to survive the harsh climatic conditions y practising a form of kung fu (6). ▨ Nine ragon Pool is actually an alpine grassland here people live and come to graze cattle). ▨ Due to the dangerous conditions of iese mountain paths, the people have eveloped the most practical way to carry igs (8). ▨ It would take four or five people) encircle this massive tree (9). ▨ This rvey team is searching for herbs that can used in Chinese medicine (10).

7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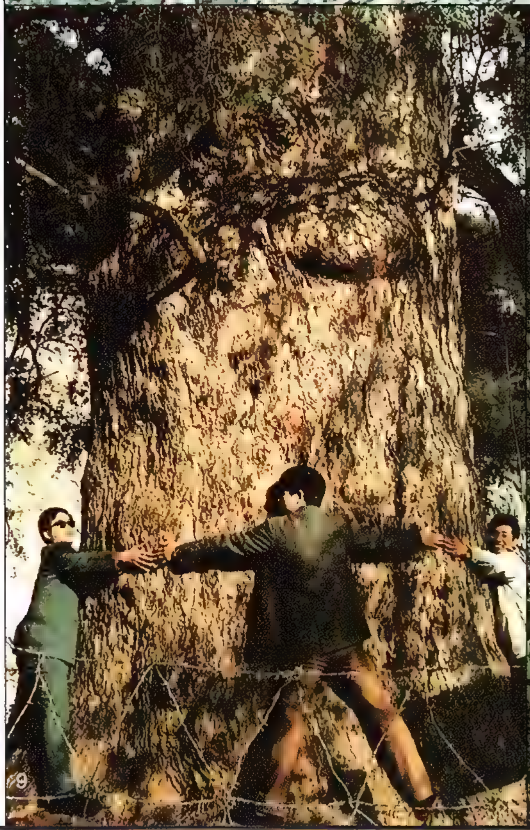
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10

A rare plant called Wenwang Yizhihu (Emperor Wenwang's pen)

A black bear

This plant is called **Qiye Yizhihua (Paris Polyphylla)**

A mountain eagle

Wild cotton

An officinal [illegible] Magnolia officinal

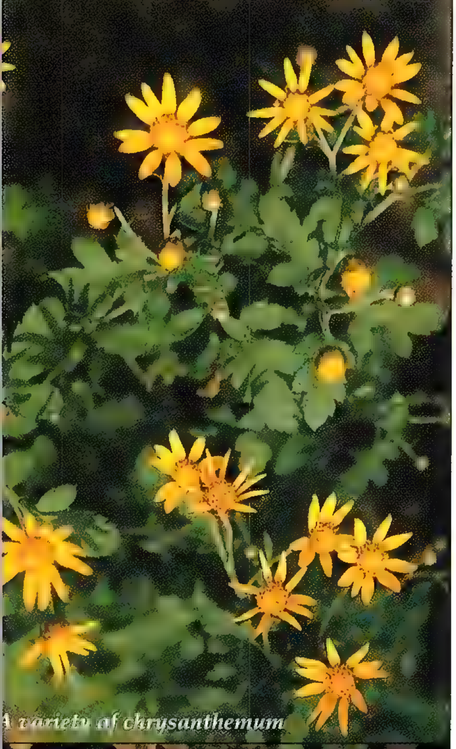
A Touding Yikezhu plant, roughly translated as "head top pearls"

A giant salamander

Flat-topped mushrooms

A purple yulan magnolia

A variety of Chinese magnoliavine **(Schisandra)**

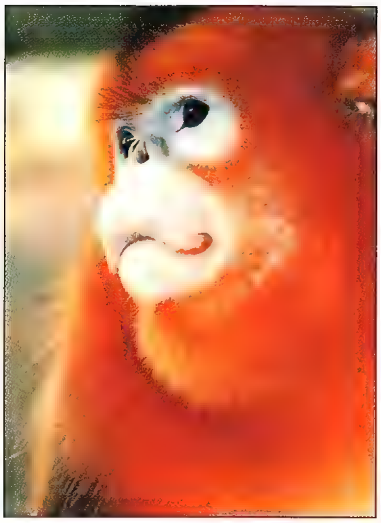


A variety of chrysanthemum

Barren wort (Epimedium macranthum)

Ciwujia (Acanthopanax)

This variety of mushroom is called fragrant mushroom

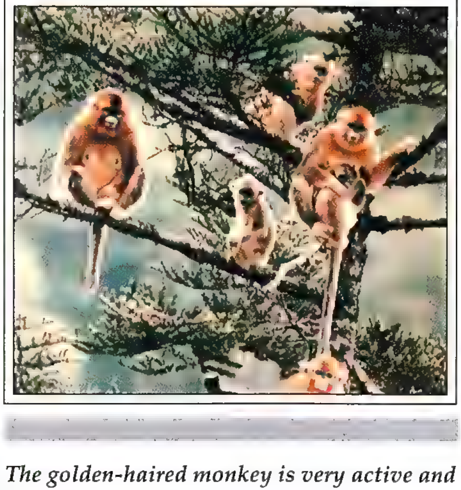


1

What I find most exciting during my surveys in Shennongjia is to discover, observe and take photos of golden-haired monkeys – one of China's "state treasures".

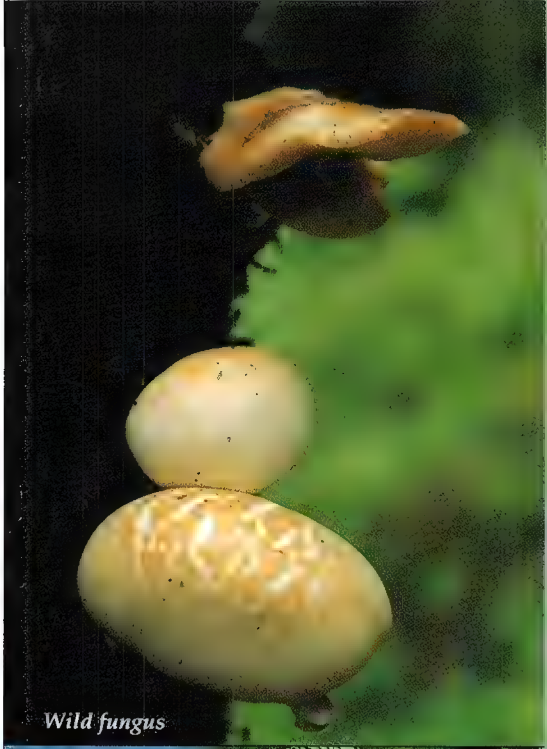
On May 3, 1988, I spoke with Hu Zhenlin about going to observe golden-haired monkeys around the Yazikou area in the protected zone. Previously, the golden-haired monkeys had moved from a place at an elevation of 3,000 metres above sea level to the mountains around Yazikou, a lower elevation. Hu Zhenlin is an expert on Shennongjia's golden-haired monkeys. Since 1981 he has been observing the monkeys, and has discovered both their seasonal migration patterns and their choice of food. He has also made audio recordings of the monkey's cries and shouts as they called to or warned each other.

On our way to the area where the monkeys lived he told me, "There are certain clues which one can use to trail golden-haired monkeys. Look at the tree branches and leaves on the ground that have been broken off by the monkeys. This indicates that the monkeys stayed here for at least two days. On May 1 of last year, somebody saw several hundred golden-haired monkeys in the area around Yazikou. On May 3 of this year, the monkeys came back to this area. This shows that golden-haired monkeys have formed their own migration patterns after just a few years of natural protection."



2

The golden-haired monkey is very active and cute (1). ■ Golden-haired monkeys enjoy playing together in groups (2, by Li Guohua).



Wild fungus

A branch of a dove tree

Rhododendrons in full bloom

A Stonecrop (S. albarseum) bush

Due to its high altitude, Shennongjia has exceptionally long winters, with snow covering the landscape for many months.

1

2

Continued from page 13)

here were only bare rocks, no trees whatoever, and the ground was covered with noss, lichen and pteridophyte. We did not ee any insects, ancient relics or ruins, not o mention the ladder leading to Heaven vhich Shennong is said to have erected. 'here was only an uneven rocky ground bout 1,300 square metres large, probably ooking much the same as it did thousands f years ago.

Several members of our team looked round trying to find something of interst, and finally discovered a bottle in a rock revice. A note in the bottle stated that on mission to collect meteorological data, en meteorological workers climbed up to e summit, and it listed the date and ames of the ten workers. By an extraordiary coincidence, the interval between their limb and ours was exactly ten years. Our otanist professor suggested that we too eave a note with the date and names of ur team members. Our note, along with e original one, was put back into the bote and placed in its original rock crevice, opefully to be discovered by the next exloration team.

Another outstanding feature of Shenongjia is its rich forests of bamboo. After assing through a dense primitive forest nd carefully stepping over numerous natually fallen fir trees, we came upon just uch a forest stretching far into the horion. As thick as a person's fingers and yelow in colour, the bamboo grew in clusters nd stood two to four metres high. We esmated that there were about 120 bamoo plants per square metre. It is said that ancient times people used this strong amboo to make arrows, hence the Chiese name Jianzhu, or Arrow Bamboo.

As the bamboo groves were so dense, ur guide insisted that we always follow losely behind him. However, we had to eep a certain distance because the bamoos would spring back and hit our faces s the person in front passed through. hough we were very careful, still our faces ot badly bruised. Suddenly a team member in front shouted for help, and when we eached him we saw that his foot was stuck the ground. We pulled him out and our uide came over and told us that he must ave stepped into a tunnel built by a "bamoo rat".

He told us that besides the giant pandas that lived among the bamboo, there was also a small mammal called the Chinese bamboo rats. Their bodies measure 40 centimetres long and weigh on average two to four kilos. They have strong bodies, large mouths and small tails. Their limbs are short and sturdy, their fur long, soft and brownish grey in colour. In appearance they look clumsy and stupid, but their short, strong limbs are excellent for digging holes. In the daytime bamboo rats stay in their tunnels then come out at night to eat bamboo shoots. The meat of the bamboo rat is said to be tender and delicious, as well as having a nourishing effect on the kidneys. It is particularly effective for healing piles.

As we descended, the bamboo groves became thicker and thicker, thus our progress became slower and slower. When we stopped to rest in a clearing we suddenly realized that five team members were missing. Our guide plunged back into the bamboo forest, climbed up a tall fir tree and shouted to guide them. After half an hour they finally came out of the thick forest.

Next to a bamboo grove our guide discovered another valuable medicinal herb called Touding Yikezhu or "head top pearl" in literal translation. Its head and tail indeed do look like pearls, and can be used to treat various kinds of headaches. The top, or "head", contains a honey-like juice with medicinal properties several times greater than the "tail". Also used to treat high blood pressure, it is a tonic and antipyretic, and has the additional function of blackening one's hair and improving one's looks. However it is very difficult to preserve, so only the hardiest of souls who often come here to pick medicinal herbs can benefit from it.

We continued our descent and soon we were back at the highland meadow. Elated, one team member took my camera's tripod and rolled down the slope with it, causing great laughter from the rest of our team, a light-hearted end to our highly successful expedition.

Translated by Anne Yan

Hu Zhenlin with the author Xu Tiezheng in Shennongjia

Two days before the Spring Festival of 1991, the weather turned clear after several days of heavy snow. I suggested to Hu Zhenlin that we go up to the Watch Tower the next day to take pictures of the mountains in winter.

The highway that took us uphill began to zigzag and the snow became thicker and thicker, making climbing more difficult. A few hours later we came to a mountain path, however snow had flattened the bamboo trees on both sides of the path, blocking the way. I had to use an old-style army bayonet to cut the bamboo. That night we prepared to spend the night in a cave which was about three metres high and four to five metres deep. To keep warm, we would have had to cut enough firewood for the whole night before it got dark, which turned out to be impossible. Therefore we had to return back to Dalong Pond where we had started.

On the second day of the lunar New Year, we set off again up the mountain. We climbed along the small "path" in the bamboo grove, with our hands digging out the "path" and our feet pulling our bags forward. We moved inch by inch for what seemed like hours before we finally realized that we were right back where we started. It was getting darker, and a look at my watch told me that we had been in this snowy bamboo grove for nearly four hours.

The fog then began drifting away, and out of nowhere the tall old fir tree which we had used to determine directions suddenly appeared. We dragged ourselves to the foot of a slope, where it was only another 300 metres to the Watch Tower. Since the slope was covered with a layer of ice, walking on it was extremely difficult. We were totally exhausted by the time we finally got to the Watch Tower, 2,900 metres above sea level. Its door was locked and nobody was there. I took out a broken saw blade and began to saw the big iron lock. It took me nearly an hour to cut off the finger-thick lock bolt. The door opened, and we immediately built a fire to keep warm. As it was already 10:00 at night and the temperature was below -10°C outside, we had found the place just in time.

Translated by Xu Mingqiang

In the midst of all the snow and fog, one can often only see the tops of mountains (1). These cypress and pine trees take on strange shapes when their branches are covered in heavy snow (2).

A Tourist Guide to Shennongjia

TEXT BY SHUANG MU & TIE ZHENG

Shennongjia is known in China as a "natural zoological and botanical garden" for its incredible variety of plant and animal life. It is also a place of numerous mountain peaks, crystal streams, beautiful valleys and strangely-shaped trees. A visit to Shennongjia is, indeed, going back to nature, and can also be a highly educational experience.

The scenic spots in Shennongjia, like Songbai Town, Yanziya, Xiangxi River, Hongping Gorge, Shennongding and Dajiuhu are all linked by highways. At present, Shennongjia is still not formally open to foreign tourists, but people from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan are welcome to visit. Foreigners must get permission from the Nature Reserve Department of the Ministry of Forestry or other departments concerned before touring the area. However, it will not be too long before Shennongjia is also open to foreigners.

Transportation and Climate

Travelling by highway is the most common method of transport in the area, with 1,200 kilometres of highway linking all townships. Its highway network connects Shennongjia to Xiangfan in the east, Yichang in the south, Sichuan Province in the west and Shiyan in the north, making travel here quite convenient from any of the surrounding provinces.

Songbai, the political, economic and cultural centre of the Shennongjia Forest Region, is situated in the eastern part of the region, 313 kilometres away from Xiangfan, 248 kilometres away from Yichang, 205 kilometres away from the Xiangxi River and 214 kilometres away from Shiyan, an "Auto City" in the north. Buses run every day between Songbai and these four places. Because of its location at the centre of a tourist region that includes Longzhong near Xiangfan, where Zhuge Liang from the Three Kingdoms period (220-280) once lived in seclusion, the Wudang Mountains, the Yangtse River Gorges and an ancient battlefield in the Three Kingdoms period, the number of tourists coming to the town has increased rapidly in recent years.

The best season to tour Shennongjia is from June to October. With an average temperature of 20°C in summer, it is an ideal place to escape the heat and relax. A subtropical monsoon climate prevails, but the region also experiences a wide range of temperatures and can get very cold at any time of year. The annual precipitation in the region is about 2,000 mm.

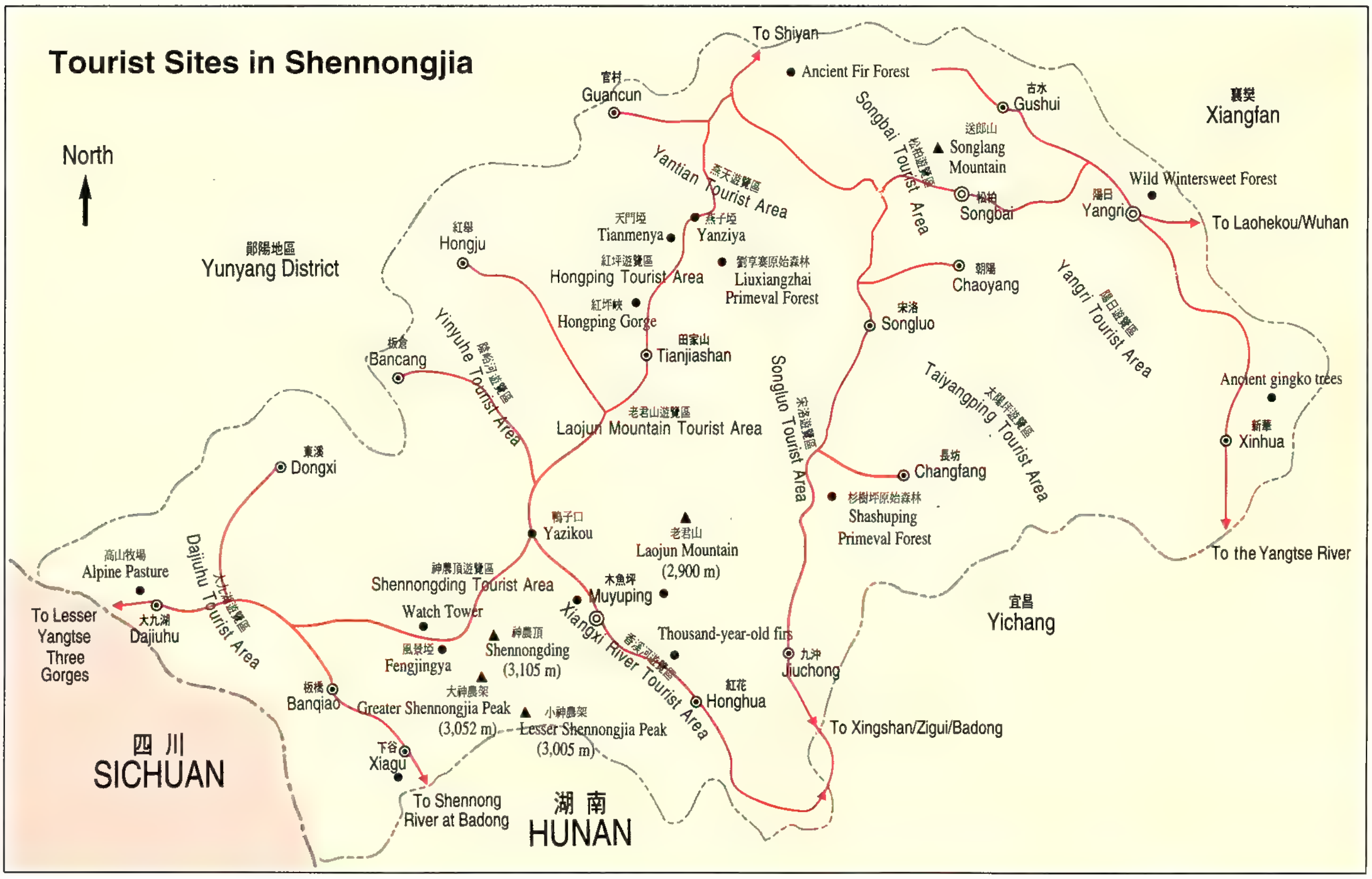
However, the temperature and precipitation change at different elevations. Even in July, for instance, the weather can change and the temperature can drop unpredictably in the area around Shennongding Watch Tower. People must wear padded clothes and build fires to keep warm in the morning and evening. It is very common to have snow in June, frost in October, and bitter cold in July. Therefore, tourists must bring warm clothes and enough food if they are going to Shennongding, the summit of the main peak. They must also take care not to get sunburned at these high altitudes.

Since tourism has just started in Shennongjia, tourist facilities are not yet complete. It is best to go in groups with guides provided by the local tourist organizations. Now a highway has been built to the area around the Watch Tower at an elevation of 2,900 metres. There is also a small hotel at Xiaolong (Small Dragon) Pool at 2,400 metres above sea level, where some of the staff of the nature reserve live.

To get to Shennongjia, first fly to Wuhan, then take a bus or train to Yichang where you can stay overnight, or fly directly from Guangzhou to Yichang. There are daily flights from Guangzhou to Wuhan, and two flights weekly to Yichang. From Yichang, there is one bus per day that goes to Songbai Town in Shennongjia. An easier option is to go by boat from Yichang to Xiangxi, from where four regular buses a day will take you to Muyuping Town in Shennongjia in two and a half hours.

You can also take a bus from Yichang to Xingshan County seat, where there are also four buses a day going to Muyuping. The distance between Xiangxi and Muyuping is 100 kilometres, and from Xingshan and Muyuping it is 70 kilometres. Muyuping is the location of the Shennongjia State Nature Reserve Administration Office. From here one can easily reach the protected area, the thousand-year-old fir trees, the golden-haired monkey area, the Dalong (Great Dragon) Pool, Qianjiaping and the other places of interest.

Translated by Xu Mingqiang



Tourist Sites in Shennongjia

North
To Shiyan
Ancient Fir Forest
Guancun
Gushui
襄樊
Xiangfan
Songlang Mountain
Songbai Tourist Area
Yantian Tourist Area
Songbai
Wild Wintersweet Forest
Yangri
To Laohekou/Wuhan
Hongju
Tianmenya
Yanziya
鄖陽地區
Yunyang District
Hongping Tourist Area
Liuxiangzhai Primeval Forest
Chaoyang
Hongping Gorge
Songluo
Yangri Tourist Area
Tianjiashan
Bancang
Yinyuhe Tourist Area
Songluo Tourist Area
Taiyangping Tourist Area
Ancient gingko trees
Laojun Mountain Tourist Area
Xinhua
Dongxi
Changfang
Shashuping Primeval Forest
Yazikou
Laojun Mountain (2,900 m)
To the Yangtse River
Alpine Pasture
Dajiuhu Tourist Area
Shennongding Tourist Area
Muyuping
To Lesser Yangtse Three Gorges
Dajiuhu
Watch Tower
宜昌
Yichang
Thousand-year-old firs
Fengjingya
Shennongding (3,105 m)
Xiangxi River Tourist Area
Jiuchong
Banqiao
Greater Shennongjia Peak (3,052 m)
Honghua
Lesser Shennongjia Peak (3,005 m)
To Xingshan/Zigui/Badong
四川
SICHUAN
Xiagu
To Shennong River at Badong
湖南
HUNAN

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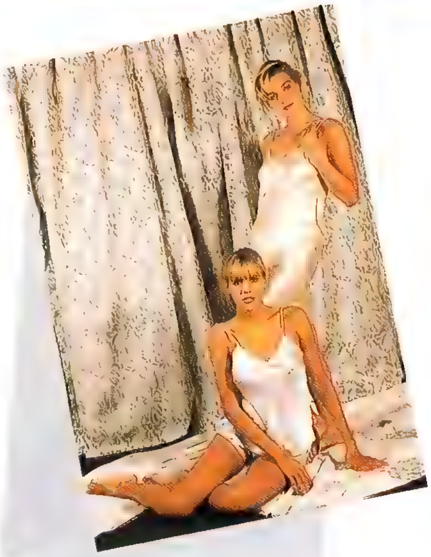

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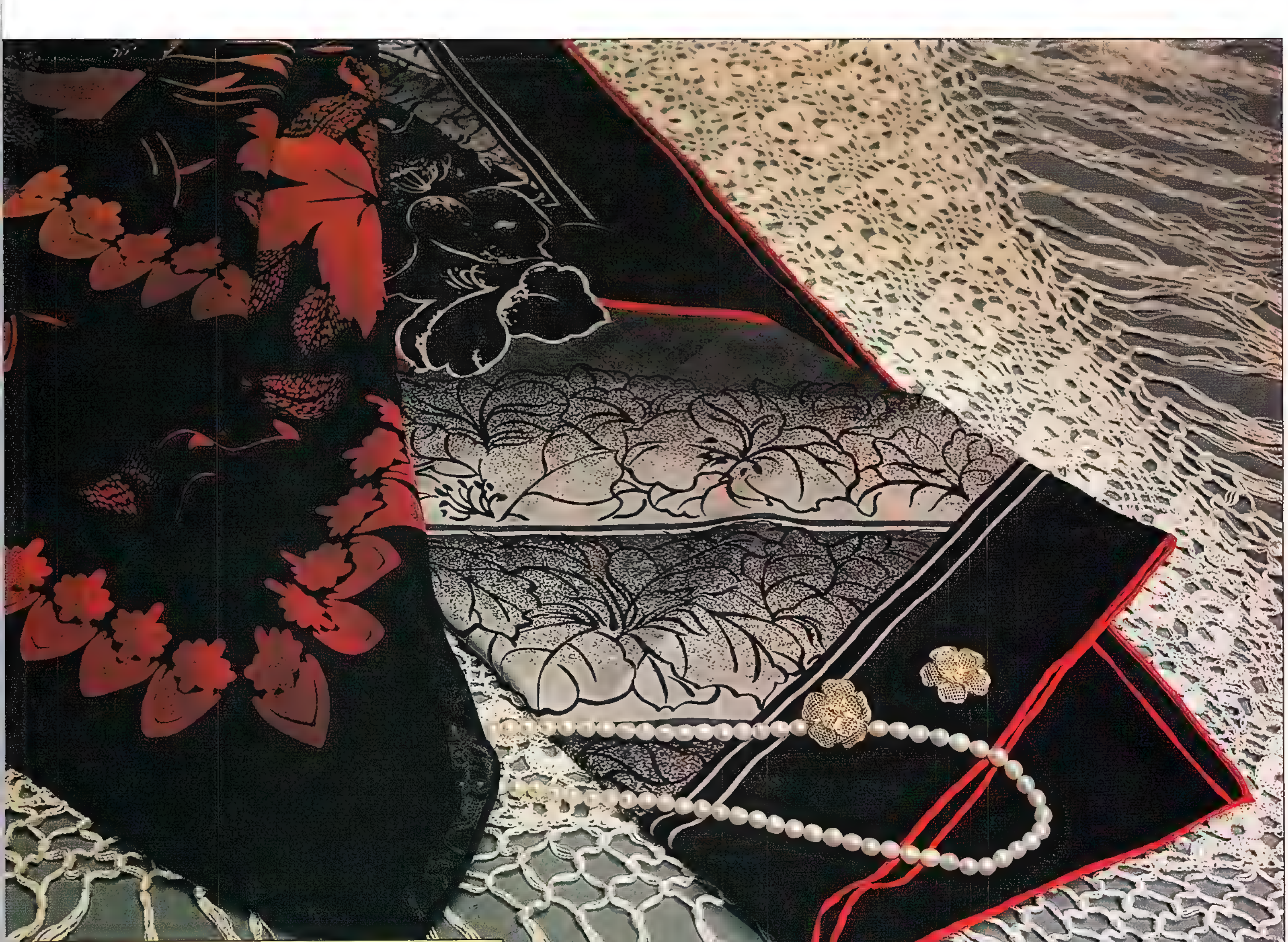

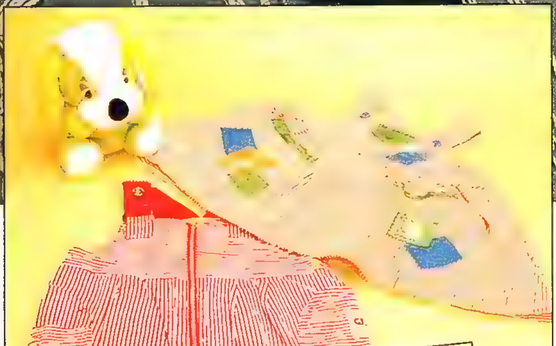

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The Incredible Feats of Shaolin "Mystic Kung Fu"

PHOTOS BY WANG YUEJIN ARTICLE BY SHI BAO XIU & WANG YUEJIN

The Shaolin Temple in Henan Province's Dengfeng County is known world-wide as the birthplace of Chinese martial arts or kung fu, first made famous in the West by film star Bruce Lee. Generally speaking, a Buddhist monk should be benevolent and peace-loving, devoted to enlightenment and the good of mankind. He should refrain from fighting, killing, conflict or warfare. How is it, then, that kung fu came about, and why is it that it had its birth in a traditional Buddhist temple?

To answer these questions, we must go back more than 1,400 years when the Indian Buddhist monk Bodhidharma came to Shaolin Temple to teach the monks how to sit in meditation. After sitting a whole day with crossed legs, the monks became numb and achy all over. Some even ended up falling asleep instead of into a meditative trance. Seeing this, Bodhidharma, in collaboration with others, worked out a set of physical exercises based on folk fighting techniques intended to help the monks to stretch and relieve fatigue during their breaks. By doing these exercises every day, the monks were able to eliminate the occurrence of stiff joints and weariness. Gradually, different types of kung fu were developed based on these first exercises.

Such exercises, originally designed to promote good health and strong bodies, were put to practical use at the beginning of the Tang Dynasty (618-907) when Shaolin monks rescued Prince Li Shimin from an enemy attack. After Li Shimin became Emperor Taizong, he issued an imperial decree to exempt the Shaolin monks from the commandment of not eating meat, and to establish a barracks in the temple compound for training monk-soldiers. From then on, by integrating different schools of folk martial arts and absorbing the merits of both the northern and southern styles of kung fu, Shaolin kung fu developed into a distinguished and unique form of martial arts in China.

Mystic Kung Fu Only for Selected Monks

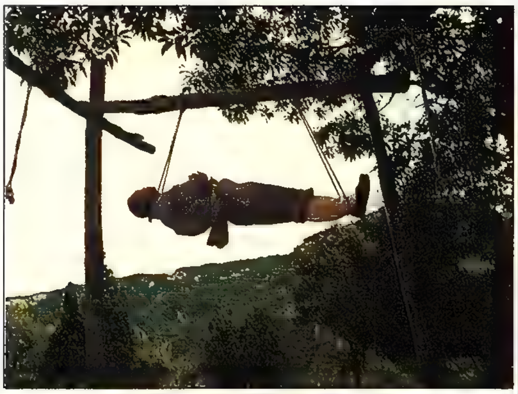
Shaolin boxing techniques are known for their simplicity and practical use in combat, while Shaolin club-wielding techniques are swift and violent. The little-known Shaolin mystic kung fu, however, is the most quintessential of all Shaolin martial arts.

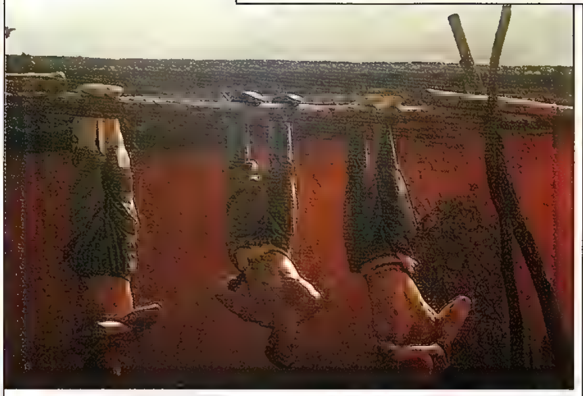
What is it that distinguishes mystic kung fu from other forms of kung fu? First, as indicated by its name, mystic kung fu involves performing some amazing and even mystical stunts. Second, it requires a complex set of training methods inaccessible to outsiders. And third, only a few selected Shaolin monks are qualified to be taught this unique form of martial arts.

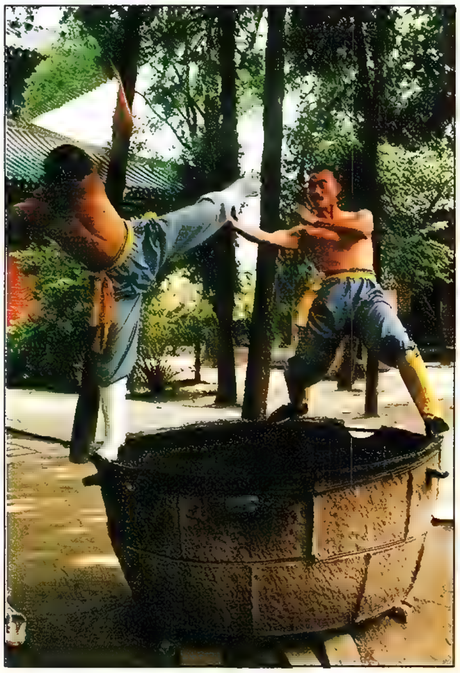
In recent years, more than a dozen mystic kung fu stunts have been performed for the public, such as the Iron Head Stunt, the Cloth Bag Stunt, the Oil Lamp Puffing Stunt, the Monster-Killing Sword Skill, and the Fire Stunts. Today, the martial monks of Shaolin Temple regard their traditional mystic kung fu as part of the nation's cultural heritage, no longer kept within remote temples and mountains as their exclusive secret. Therefore, as these stunts are being seen by more and more people, the disclosure of this age-old martial arts tradition has caused considerable amazement and curiosity. Some simply hope to see the performance with their own eyes, others desire to learn the skills themselves, and still others wish to do studies and eventually write books on the secrets of these feats.

However, if one takes away the mystery shrouding this type of kung fu practice and learns something about the training involved, one soon realizes that it is the result of strenuous, continuous and painstaking effort as well as a deep understanding of the theories involved, rather than something acquired through mystical tricks. And even if all the "tricks of the trade" were disclosed, one would still get nowhere without the many years of uninterrupted and difficult training that is required.

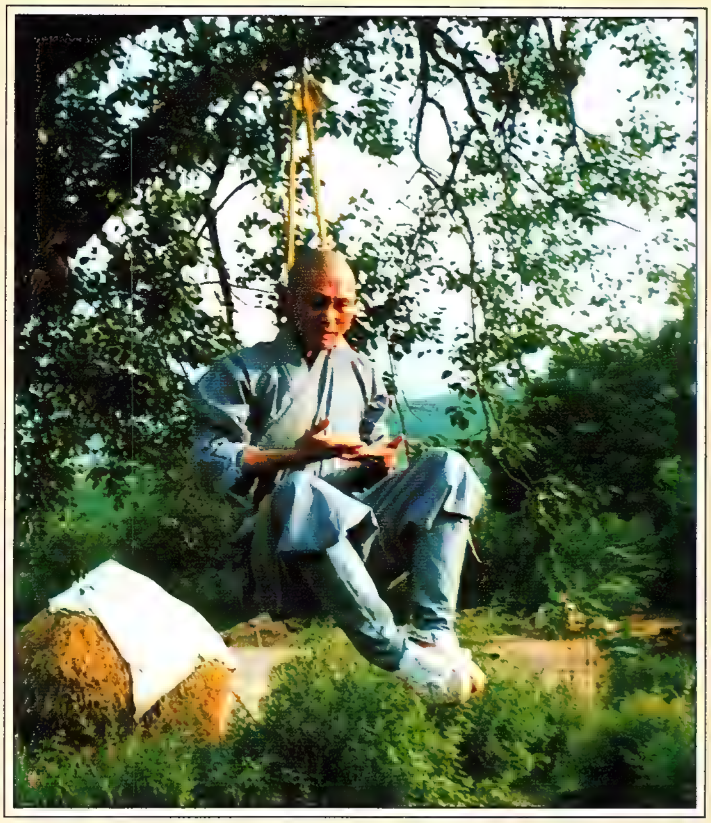
On the other hand, without a clear understanding of the techniques, even a person who has undergone training and has been chosen as one of the select few is unlikely to truly master Shaolin kung fu stunts. He must be able to regulate the *yin* and *yang* within him and be able to control both his interior and exterior energy, called *qi*; otherwise he would, at best, become a second-rate practitioner with only a superficial knowledge of Shaolin martial arts. In addition, a person not fully trained can easily make a faulty move, resulting in a serious injury or even death. Therefore, Shaolin mystic kung fu, though not particularly mysterious, complicated or abstruse, is not achievable by everyone.







Top and middle: *Two types of hanging stunts.*
Left: *These monks are practising the Light Body Weight Stunt on the edge of a cooking pot.*



The Hanging Stunt

The mastery of this stunt means that the practitioner is able to prevent himself from being strangled to death. He can put a noose around his neck and hang himself for a long time and still remain quite alive. With his eyes shut, the hanging man breathes evenly as if deep in meditation.

The Hanging Stunt is unique to Shaolin kung fu. Before beginning this practice, the trainee must first concentrate his *qi* in his pubic region, from where he directs it to move all around his body, finally letting it remain deep in his throat. After this initial preparation, he hangs himself from a tree, initially by a wide, soft silk belt for 30 to 60 seconds each time. After two or three years of such training he is able to hang himself by a very thin rope for five to seven minutes at a time. With several more years of continuous training, he will finally be able to hang himself for 15 minutes at a time.

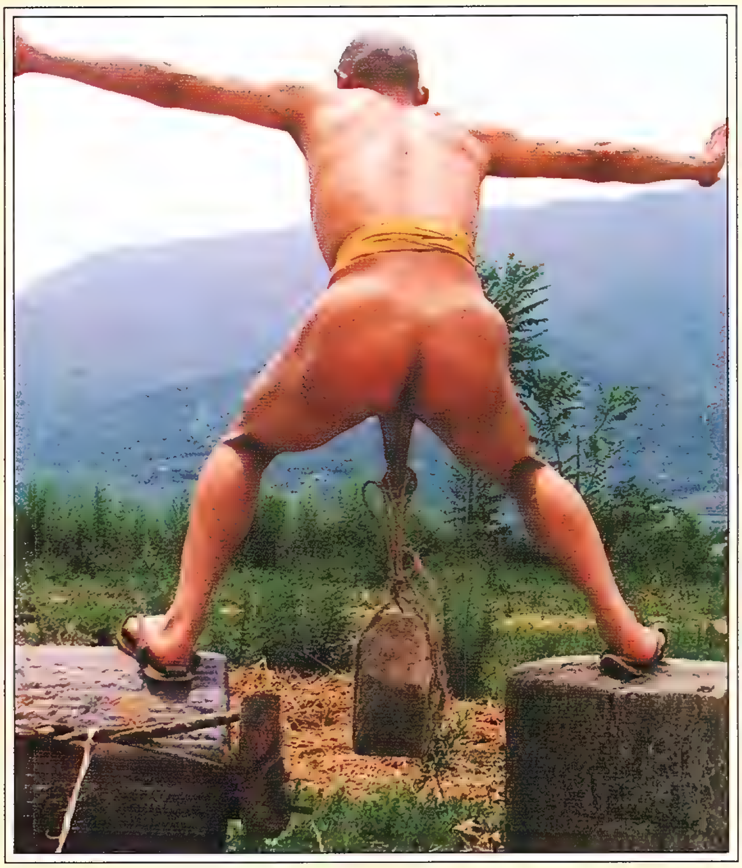
What is the use of this live hanging skill? For a fighter, it might save his life at a moment when his fate hangs in the balance. He need never be afraid of being strangled to death by an adversary, and he would also be able to survive if an enemy attempted to puncture his eardrums by a blow to the head.

However, the trainee should be very cautious in practising this stunt. He must prepare carefully beforehand by fully directing his *qi* to all parts of his body, and also must have a coach at his side, or death is very possible.

The Iron Head Stunt

A heavy blow to the head with a club would, for most people, result in a serious injury such as a brain concussion, if not death. However, a person with Shaolin "iron head" training is not afraid of such attacks and can even use his head as a fatal weapon. Through rigorous practice, the trainee is able to use his head to break rocks or iron plates, a truly incredible feat.

Every morning, the trainee takes a special pill washed down by rice wine, and then stands firmly with slightly bent knees, directing his *qi* from the pubic region upwards to the *baihui* acupoint on the top of his head five to ten times. At the same time, he breathes through his nostrils with his mouth shut and his tongue touching his palate. Finally, when he has the feeling that his *qi* has been directed to the crown of his head, he begins to practise the Iron Head Stunt. He strikes his head with his fists and with a club over 100 times a day, with increasing force. After several years of training, his head becomes indeed stronger than iron.



The Stone-Hanging Stunt

This is an unusual feat, the training of which is normally unendurable by most men. The trainee must get up at dawn, and practice consists of trying to concentrate one's vital energy (*qi*) and blood into the lower body and finally the testicles. In the beginning, no weights are hung on the scrotum, but the trainee must pinch the testicles lightly 300 to 500 times a day.

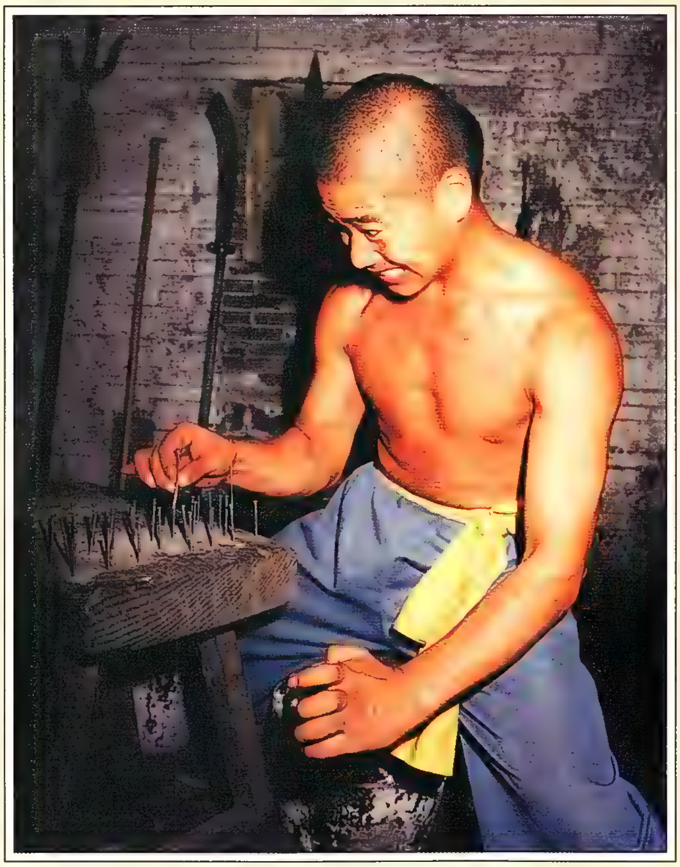
Later on in his practice, also at dawn or before, the trainee attaches silk floss to the base of his scrotum, from which is hung a stone weighing 100-250 grams. The weight of the stone is gradually increased up to 15 or 20 kilos, but only at the end of more than ten years' persistent training. By then, the trainee has overcome any vulnerability to this part of the body. This is important because when men fight the scrotum is the most vulnerable area, and when a man is hit there, the pain is so strong he cannot help but collapse. But for those who have undergone "stone-hanging" training, no amount of hitting or kicking will prevent them from fighting on to the bitter end.

The Nail-Pulling Stunt

In kung fu movies or TV plays one might see a performer, in desperation, make a sudden grab at his adversary's shoulder and rip his flesh open. Such horrible scenes are not always the invention of playwrights or film directors. Actually, this is another accomplishment made possible through Shaolin kung fu. By practising the Nail-Pulling Stunt, one can acquire this kind of skill.

First, scores of iron nails are driven into a thick board made of date wood, with two-thirds of the nail's length left exposed. Next, the trainee must try to pull them out with his thumb, index finger and middle finger. The nails become gradually smaller and the exposed part gets shorter until at last, only one-third of the 2.5-inch-long nails are exposed. Additionally, the nails are splashed with water and kept out for a few days to make them rust. Then the trainee is asked to pull the rusty nails out one by one, and must persevere in such training for six years. Before and after practising, he should wash his fingers with a concoction of medicinal herbs so as to protect himself from injury.

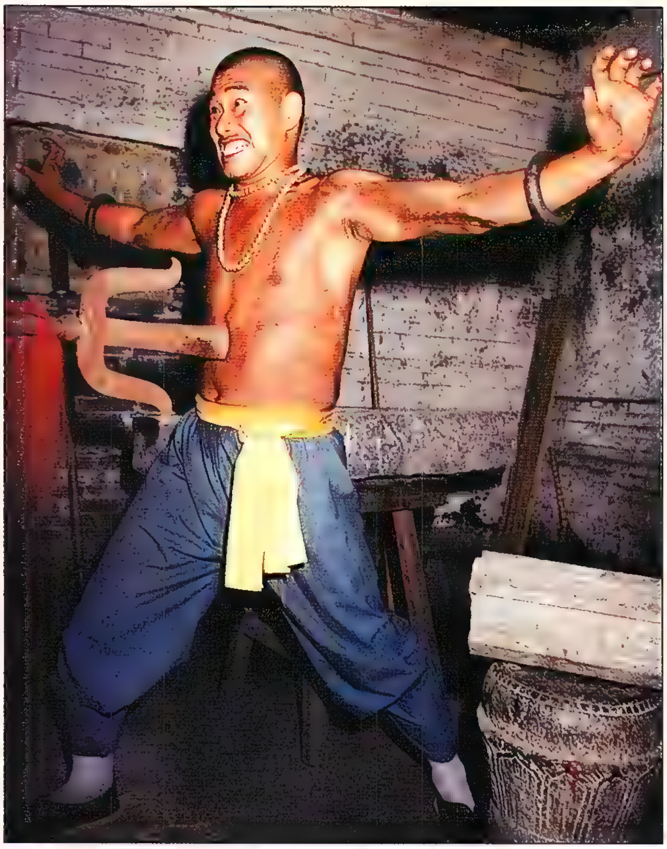
After acquiring the nail-pulling skill, the trainee is able to rip open his adversary's flesh or even break a bone. If he hits at certain acupoints on his adversary's body, he can paralyze his victim instantly.

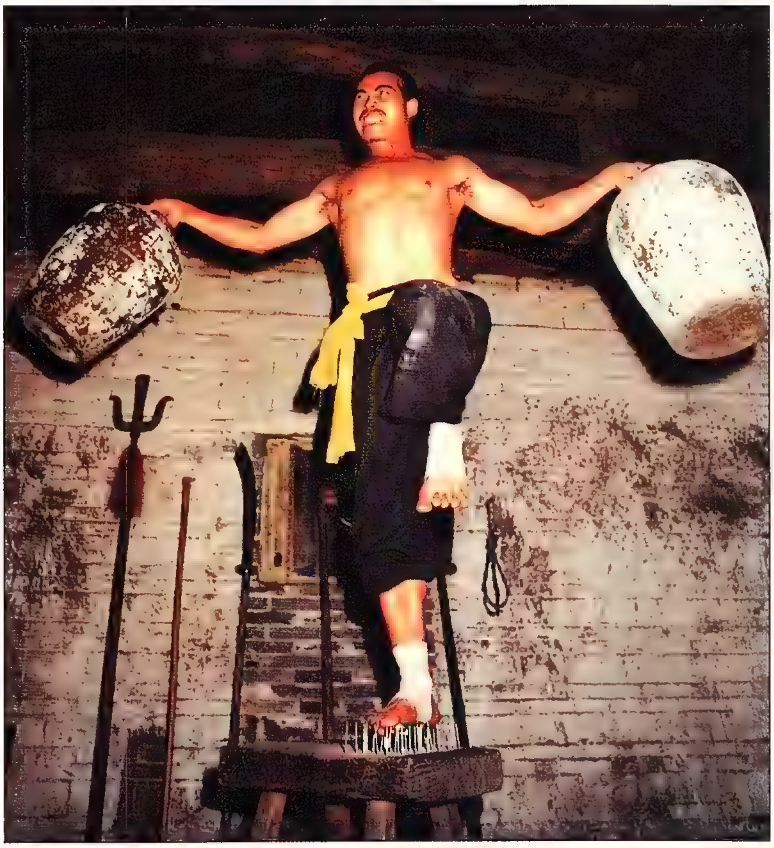


The Cloth Bag Stunt

Like Arabian belly-dancers, the performer of this stunt must exercise his belly continuously. After due training, his belly becomes as hard as steel, able to endure punching, kicking and even the thrust of a sword or spear.

To begin with, the trainee must sit quietly and, swelling up his belly by inhaling deeply, rub it with each hand 36 times. After exhalation, he rubs his belly another 36 times. Such exercises must be performed four times a day, at dawn, noon, in the evening and at night. In the second stage, he is able to grip a wooden stick in the folds of his belly so that it is immovable, then suddenly shoot it out as he swells up his belly. In the third stage, he presses his belly against the tip of a sharp knife fastened to a tree and makes the tree rock. The entire training procedure is completed in about ten years.

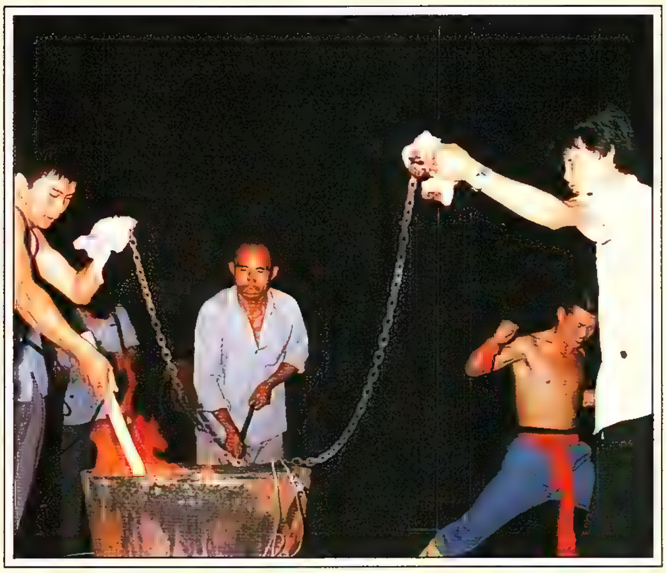




The Eagle's Paw on Nails Stunt

Like the Nail-Pulling Stunt, this also involves using the fingers. At first, the trainee is asked to pick up and raise one empty earthen jar in each hand. Sand and stones are added gradually into the jars until they weigh 60 kilos each. In the second stage, the jars are each filled with iron pellets weighing 75 kilos, which are then lifted by the trainee. After many years of training, he is able to hold up the jars for one or two hours at a stretch each day. Next, the trainee must face the rising sun every morning and grab in the air at the sun. After completing this stage, which requires several more years, he acquires the ability to make a flying bird drop to the ground just by grabbing at it in the air. Without a gun or an arrow, he is able to bring down any kind of bird.

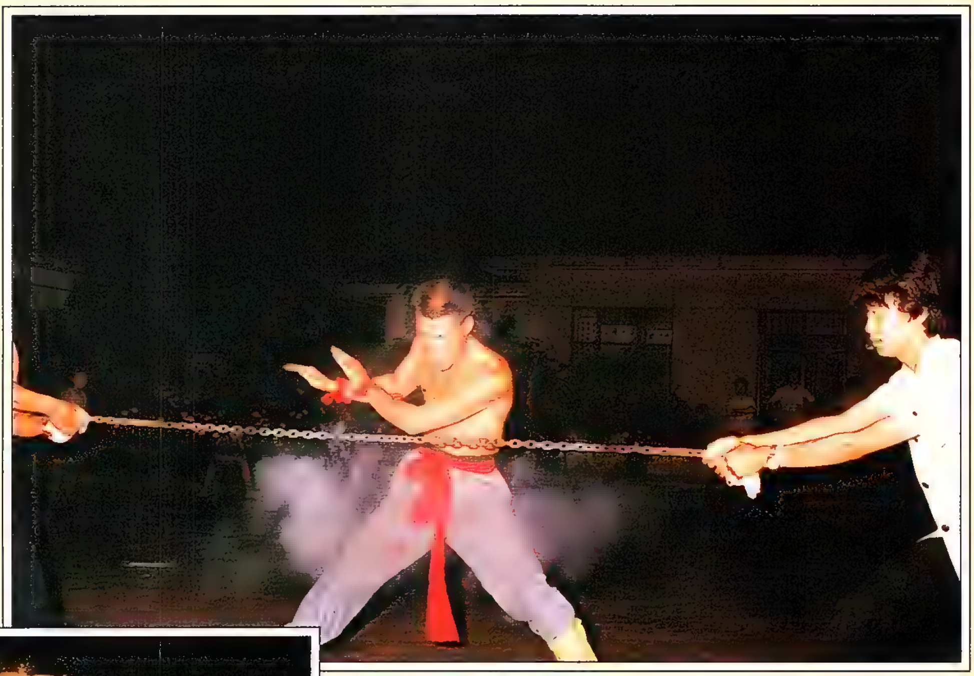
The third or last stage is especially breathtaking. Standing barefoot on a dense bed of nails, the performer raises up the jars as their weight is increased. A person who can master the Eagle's Paw on Nails Stunt also has the ability to deflect energy away from himself. People more than three metres away can feel the impact when he pushes his palms forward. Not only can he raise something as heavy as 500 kilos, he can also stop his adversary just by grabbing at him anywhere on his body.

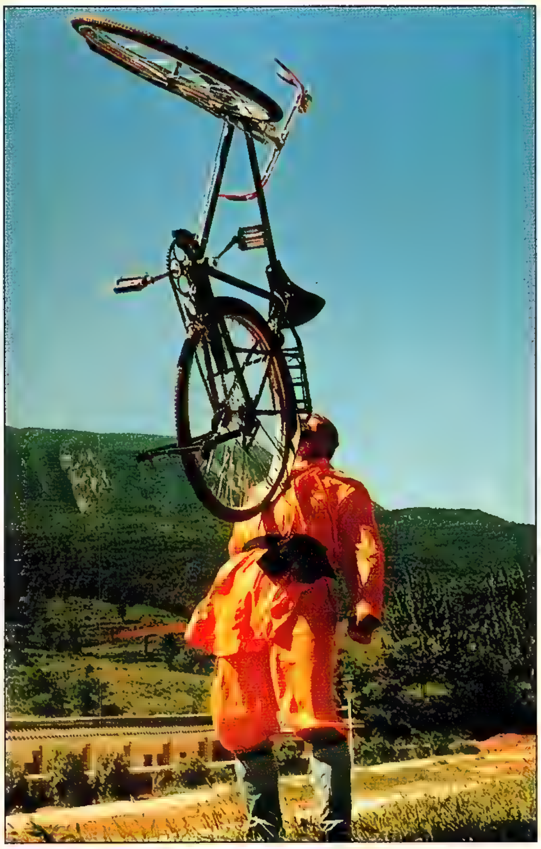


The Fire Stunts

This is one of the most difficult and astounding "hard" Shaolin breathing exercises. Standing in front of a fire with a red-hot iron chain in its centre, the performer murmurs to himself with his eyes shut before he squats down and directs his *qi* through his outstretched arms to his palms. After a moment, letting out a mighty roar, he holds up the red-hot iron chain and twirls it swiftly in the air. White vapour pours forth from his fingers with a sizzling hiss. Throwing aside the chain, he stretches out his fingers to show that there is not the slightest injury except for some rust stains. The performer in the picture is Monk Xing Kong, a 32nd generation practitioner of the Fire Stunt. He has been learning this stunt in the temple for nearly ten years.

Another Fire Stunt is to lick a red-hot bar or iron spade without harming one's tongue.





The Steel Teeth Stunt

Anyone who sees a picture of someone doing this stunt might suspect that it is just trick photography, and that no one's teeth could possibly be that strong. However, it is a fact that this performer is able to lift an entire bicycle slowly with his teeth by biting the edge of the carrier. The practitioner continues to hold the bicycle in the air for three to five minutes. He performs the stunt at ease, without panting or sweating.

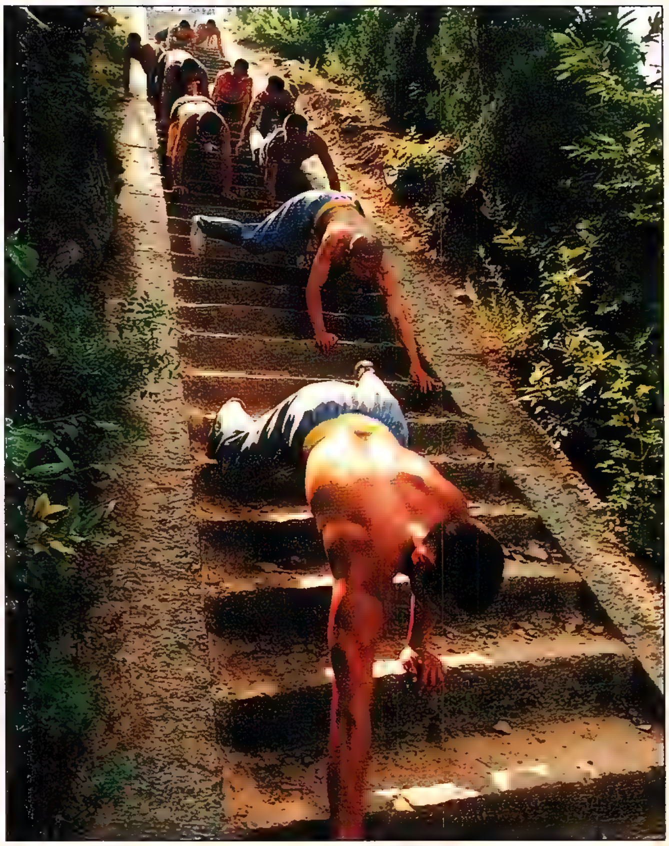
On the wall of the exercise room at Shaolin Temple is a maxim which describes this training: "To get a set of teeth stronger than steel, one must exercise every day. The weight of the object raised is increased gradually, while one's strength grows. By exhaling and inhaling, one learns to direct his strength. After prolonged training, he will acquire this skill, so impressive that any adversary will flee from him in fright."

The Crawling Stunt

This is a stunt of strength, whereby the performer crawls very nimbly using the strength of his arms and legs, down a staircase or stone steps up to a hundred metres long. The person who practises this stunt for a long time invariably has a body as pliable as a bow and extremely flexible ankles. His palms are very strong and he walks as fast as the wind. In fact, there is no mystical trick to this stunt -- it is achievable only by hard physical training.

By the way, we would like to give our readers a small piece of advice: Never attempt any of these tricks without the requisite training!

Translated by Xia Ping



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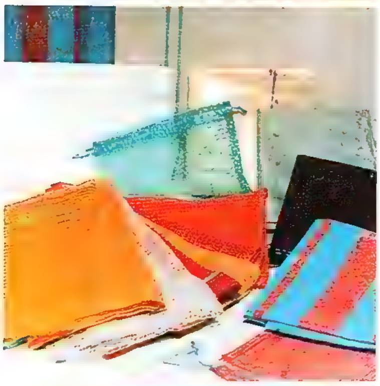

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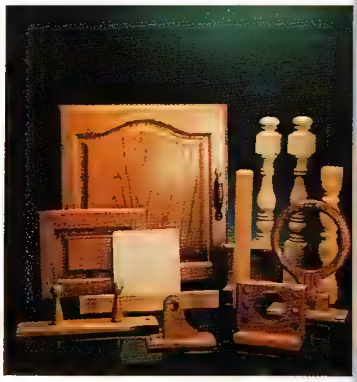

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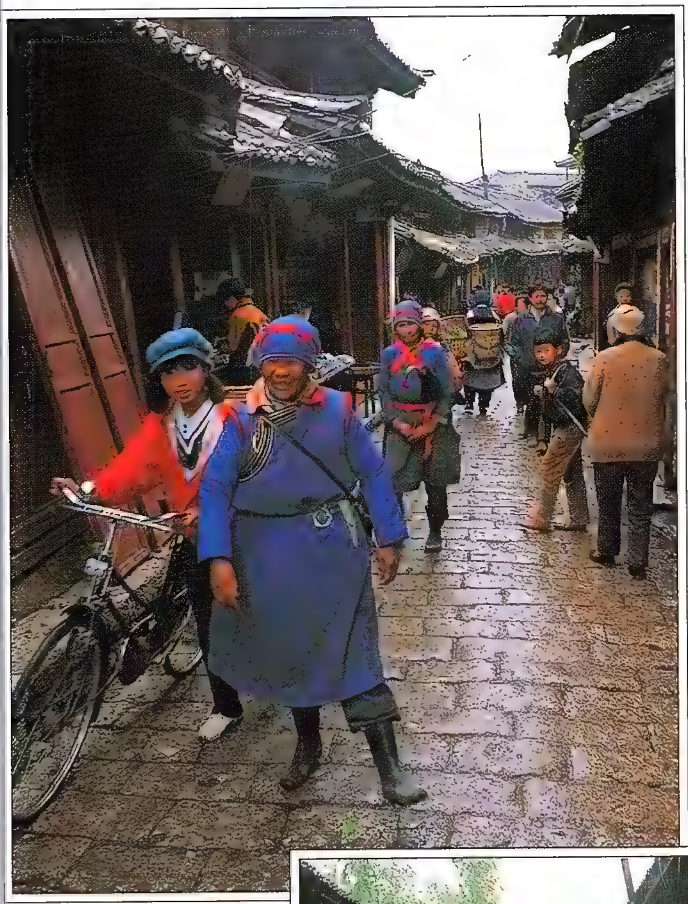
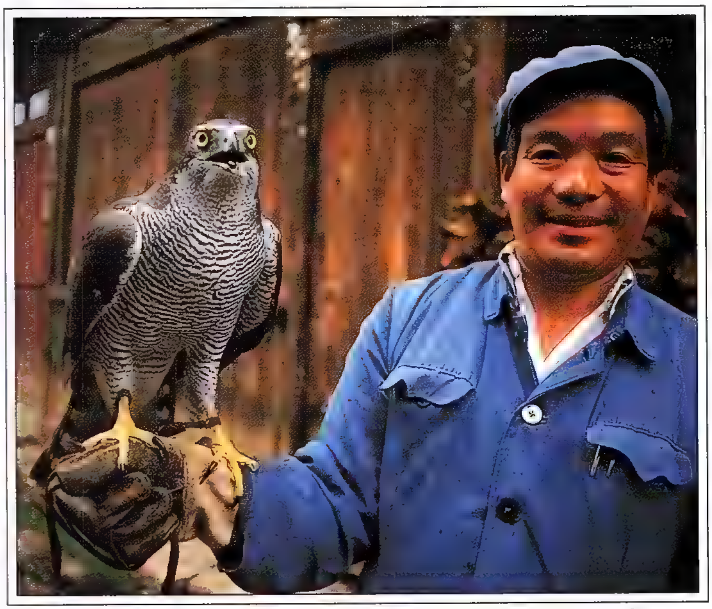
The Ancient Town of Dayan, Home of the Naxi Minority

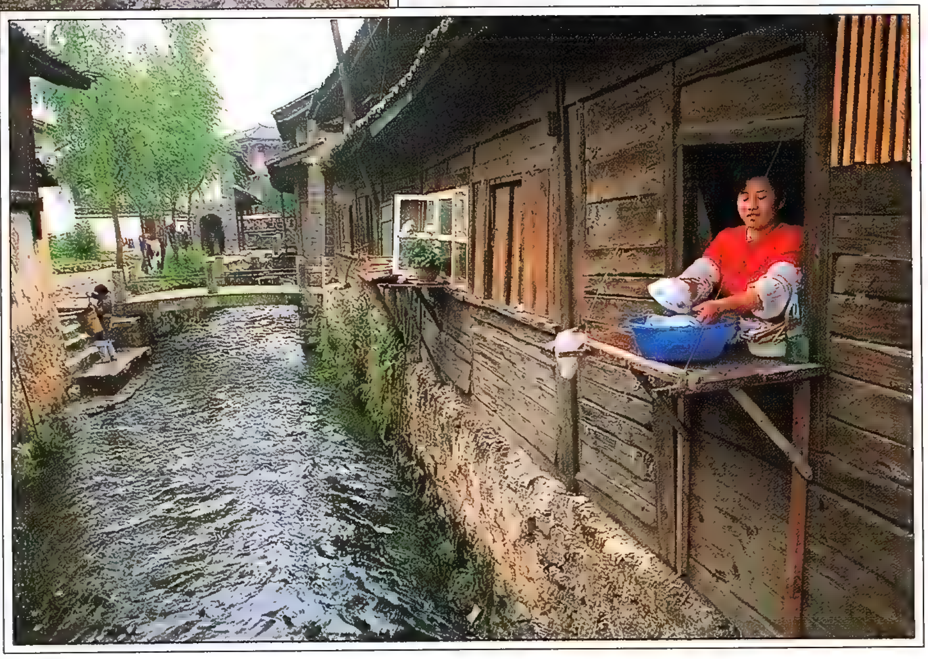
PHOTOS BY PENG ZHENGE   ARTICLE BY PENG ZHENGE & SUN JIONG



Naxi women's traditional outfits are bright and colourful.



The Naxi men are fond of hunting, and therefore have a special affection for their hunting eagles.

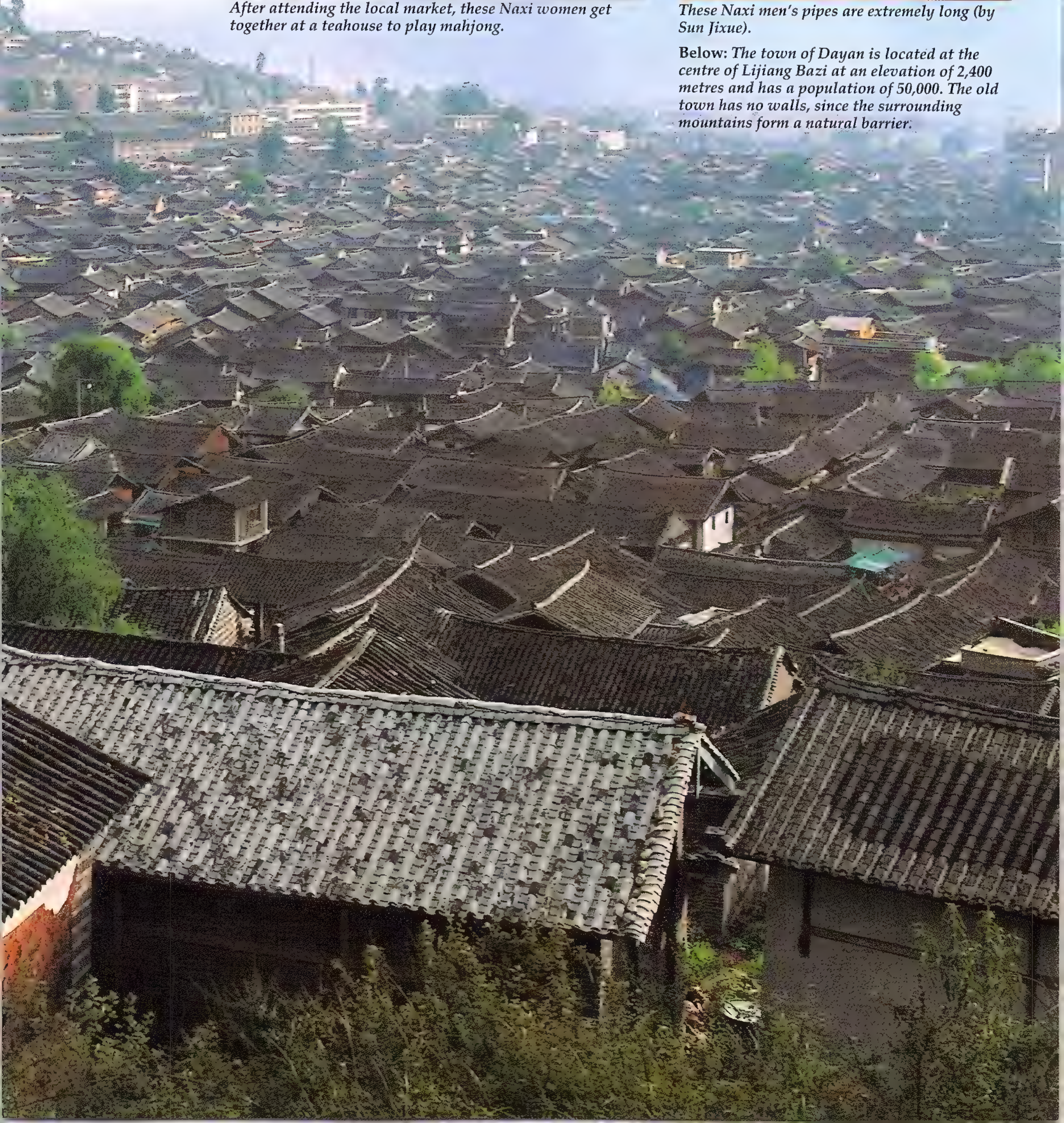


The streets in Dayan are all paved with locally produced stone slabs.

The clear water from Jade Spring flows through the town, bringing fresh water to hundreds of thousands of households.

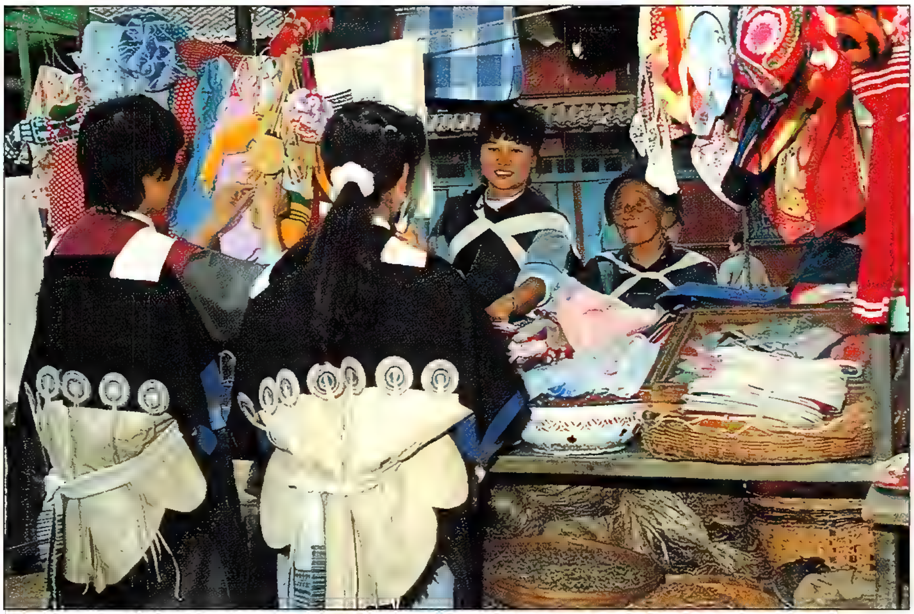
After attending the local market, these Naxi women get together at a teahouse to play mahjong.

These Naxi men's pipes are extremely long (by Sun Jixue).



Below: *The town of Dayan is located at the centre of Lijiang Bazi at an elevation of 2,400 metres and has a population of 50,000. The old town has no walls, since the surrounding mountains form a natural barrier.*

A market is held every day at Square Street, attracting both Dayan residents and the Tibetan, Bai and Yi people living in the surrounding mountains.



The shawls of the Naxi women are decorated with seven round, finely-embroidered plates, popularly called "The Moon and Stars Carried on the Shoulders" (by Sun Jixue).

Even from the town centre one can see the magnificent Yulong Snow Mountains.

Not long ago the American actor Sylvester Stallone paid a visit to the remote town of Dayan, the seat of Lijiang Naxi Autonomous County in the northwestern corner of Yunnan Province. In search of a secluded place where he could escape the hustle and bustle of city life, he came here via Shanghai and Kunming, then travelled over 600 kilometres in a taxi. Of all the places in the world that he could go, it was in the remote town of Dayan that this megastar chose to spend his holiday.

According to a local tourist guide, one evening Stallone went to a Chinese-style courtyard in Dayan and hid himself among a group of independent travellers. Under a dim light, he sat on a bench listening to ancient Taoist music being played by a group of old Naxi men.

Before the performance, Mr. Xuan Ke, the director of the troupe, stood up and explained in English the history of the ancient music. The performance was excellent, and Stallone burs into applause. Suddenly a tourist recognized him and shouted excitedly: "Rambo!" The audience rushed over and surrounded Stallone shaking his hand and asking him to sign thei T-shirts. The place was plunged into chaos and Mr. Xuan got very angry. Finally the audience returned to their seats and the performance was able to continue.

After this incident, Stallone was free to roam about the streets or have tea in the local tea house. The local people did not recognize him as they had never seen his films. They saw only small groups of foreigners, but did not know when they came or where they were going. I was an ideal getaway for someone as famous a Stallone.

An Ideal Area for Dongba Research

Lijiang is a picturesque area with snow capped mountains and virgin forests, as wel as many ancient temples and towns. The Nax people here have preserved their traditiona customs and their splendid Dongba culture therefore it is an ideal place not only for a holiday, but also for doing studies on a wide rang of subjects.

In the past hundred years, quite a number o naturalists and humanists have come here, conducted thorough investigations and wrote numerous books. Of them, the most famous is th American scientist Dr. Joseph Locker. In 1922 supported financially by the National Geographic Society of America, he came here as researcher for Harvard University. His researc covered a vast area with Lijiang as the centre embracing Yunnan, Sichuan and Tibet. He spen 27 years here until 1949, when he left with grea reluctance.

During his stay he wrote many books on th Naxi minority and the Dongba language, an also took photos of the area's breathtakin mountains and gorges, the street scenes i Dayan, and the Naxi people themselves. Th photos were published in the American journa *National Geographic*. By an interesting coincidence, the man who acted as guide, interprete and secretary for Dr. Locker was the father o Mr. Xuan, director of Dayan's ancient musi troupe.

Yunnan Province is covered with mountains and the basins between or among the mountains are called *bazi* by the local people. Th Jinsha River passes through the mountain round the Lijiang Bazi. To the northwest is a ange of snow-covered mountains called the ulong (Jade Dragon) Snow Mountains, and cross the Jinsha River are the Haba Snow ountains. The gorge flanked by these two ountain ranges is the well-known Hutiao (Ti- er Leaping) Gorge. To the east of the Yulong now Mountains is a fertile plain of pasturelands nd wheat fields, at the centre of which is Dayan.

Dayan has a history of over 800 years, and is ell situated amidst three major hills: Xiangshan Elephant Hill), Jinhong (Golden Rainbow) Hill nd Shizi (Lion) Hill. These hills shield the town rom the icy-cold northwest winds, thus it is ever very cold here even in winter. A spring ushes out of the foot of Elephant Hill, the wa- r said to come from the melting snow flowing own the Yulong Snow Mountains.

A Traditional and Ancient Town

The designers of Dayan's water channels ere ingenious regarding the utilization of wa- r. The water is first stored in a deep pool called he Heilong (Black Dragon) Pool, which is ormed just below Jade Spring at Elephant Hill. he pool is surrounded by ancient Chinese-style owers, pavilions and old trees, with the up- ide-down image of the snow-covered moun- ains reflected in the smooth water of the pool.

The water rushes down through a sluice- ate under a covered bridge and flows along he riverbed up to Double Stone Bridge at the ntrance to Dayan Town, where it then divides nto three water courses: West River, Middle iver and East River. These three main rivers re sub-divided into dozens of tributaries, which re conducted into hundreds of thousands of ouses throughout the town. The water seems be everywhere, now flowing out under your eet, now disappearing all of a sudden and ap- earing again around the corner.

The roads and rivers are flanked by flowers, eeping willows and rows of houses. When he inhabitants want to fetch water or wash veg- tables, they need only walk a distance of no ore than 50 paces. The old stone-arched ridges built in the Ming and Qing dynasties pan the main river, presenting a lush land- cape typically found south of the Yangtse River.

All the streets and lanes in Dayan are paved ith colourful stone slabs, an exclusive product f Lijiang, making the streets free of mud in the ainy season and dust in the dry season. In the owntown area there is a small square sur- ounded by hundred-year-old shops and stores ousing all kinds of stalls, known as Square treet.

Dozens of years ago, the inhabitants had the ractice of closing the drainage gates and let- ng the water flood the streets. This was done hen the whole town was out to sweep the treets, so with the gate open the water in the treets automatically washed away all dirt and ust. Now the local government is renovating he water channels with the intention of reviv- g this traditional practice.

The houses in town are all made of wood nd brick; most of them traditional-style quad- angles with rooms on three sides and a screen all shielding the courtyard from the street. he decorations on the doors and windows are esigns carved in bas-relief of birds and flow- rs. Trees and potted flowers grow in the court- ards, bird cages hang from the eaves and painting and calligraphy scrolls line the walls of the interior halls. A refined and tranquil atmosphere pervades these ancient buildings.

Dayan boasts beautiful scenery on all sides: the snowy peaks of the Yulong Snow Mountains to the north, a distant view of Wenbi (Writing Brush) Peak to the south, a close-up view of old cypress trees on Lion Mountain, and a vast landscape of fields to the east. Located here is the Mu Family Compound, once the residence of the village head and still in good condition. The residence is composed of three courtyards surrounded by elegant-looking buildings. From the courtyard one can see the luxurious cypress woods on Lion Mountain, and can even hear them rustle in the wind. After seeing this town, it comes as no surprise that it has been named one of China's "Famous Historical and Cultural Towns".

The Dongba Sutra

The original inhabitants of Lijiang, the Naxi people, now have a population of only 200,000, although they once held a dominant position in this region. In ancient times, the area was surrounded by the Tubo Kingdom (people of the Tibetan minority) to the north, the Dali Kingdom (the Bai minority) to the south and the Yi minority to the east. The Naxi people, however, under the guidance of King Mu, waged numerous battles and won military honours for the central government.

Over a thousand years ago, the predecessors of the Naxi minority created a hieroglyphic language. The Dongba priests wrote sutras with this language, hence it became known as the Dongba language. "Dongba" is a Naxi word meaning "a sutra reader in mountainous areas". The Dongbas are priests who help the villagers pay homage to the gods, drive away ghosts, pray for happiness, get rid of misfortune or preside over funeral ceremonies. Now one only sees such religious activities in the countryside.

In the Dongba Culture Research Institute of the Academy of Sociological Sciences of Yunnan Province, located near Black Dragon Pool, are a few old Dongbas who help scientists with their research work on Dongba culture. In the institute there is a Dongba Culture Exhibition Hall, where one can see displays of religious paintings, Dongba religious ritual objects and Dongba sutras.

Apart from their obvious religious content, the Dongba sutras contain a great number of classical literary works of the Naxi minority, including mythological stories and epics. The most famous works are the *Chongban Map*, a Genesis epic, *Dong'ai Shu'ai*, a war epic, and *Luban, Lurao*, a love tragedy; together they are known as the three great epics of the Naxi minority.

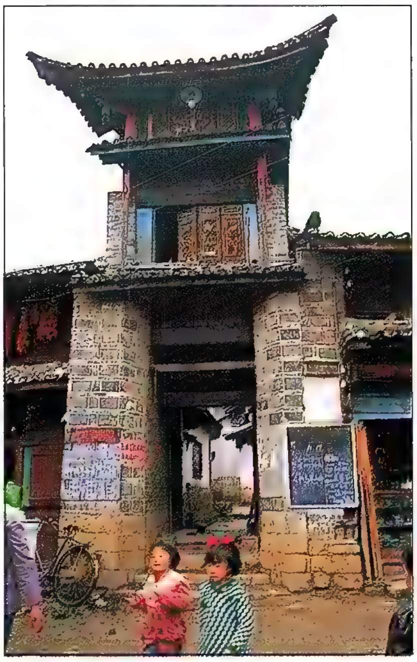
Dongba Religious Dances

In the Dongba sutras there are records of religious dance compositions, including dances to pay homage to the gods such as the Lamp Dance and the Flower Dance, or dances mimicking the actions of animals such as the Clawed Animals' Dance and the Flying Bird Dance. These may be among the earliest dances in the world. Using the narrations given by an old Dongba, scholars have translated the dance compositions into standard Chinese.

The rough idea of one is as follows: "Long,

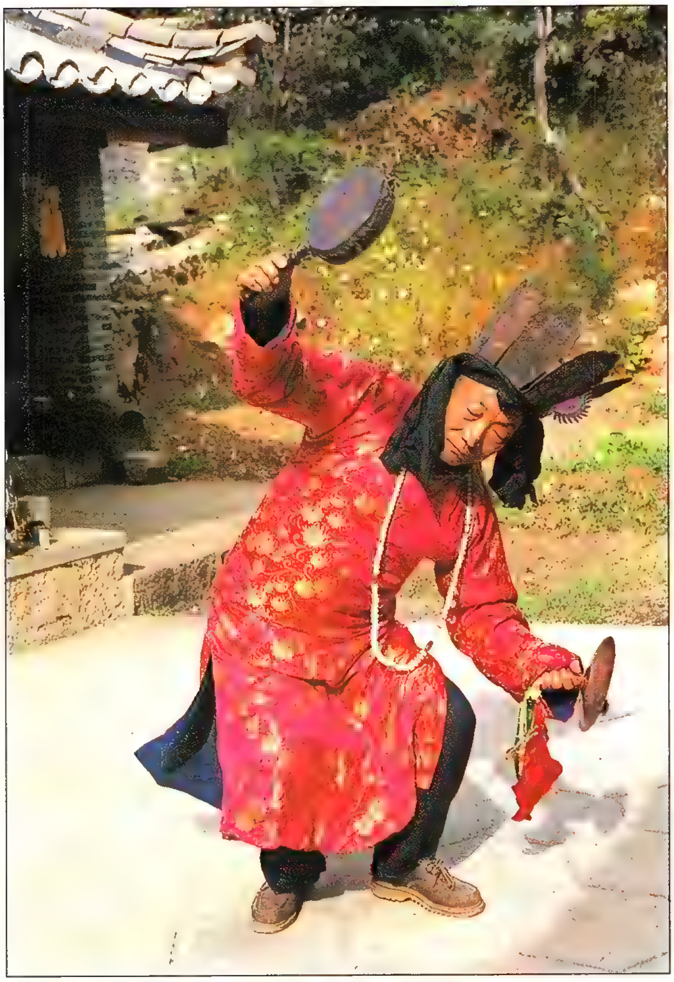
Coppersmiths here are known for their fine craftsmanship. Their products are exported to areas as far away as Tibet.

At this Naxi shrine the character meaning "longevity" takes the place of the customary of the ancestral tablet.



On top of the gate-tower at this lane entrance one can get a bird's-eye view of the town.

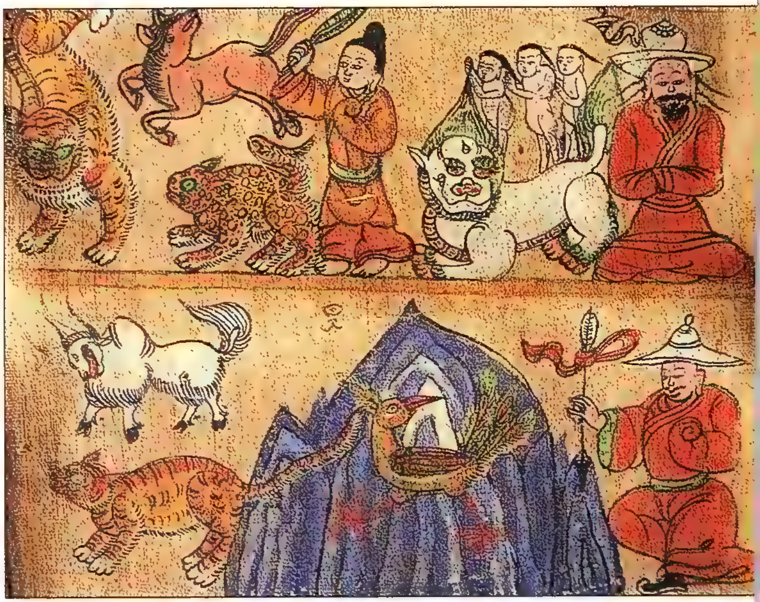
The ancient music troupe of Baihua Village in Lijiang performs ancient religious music on Sundays.

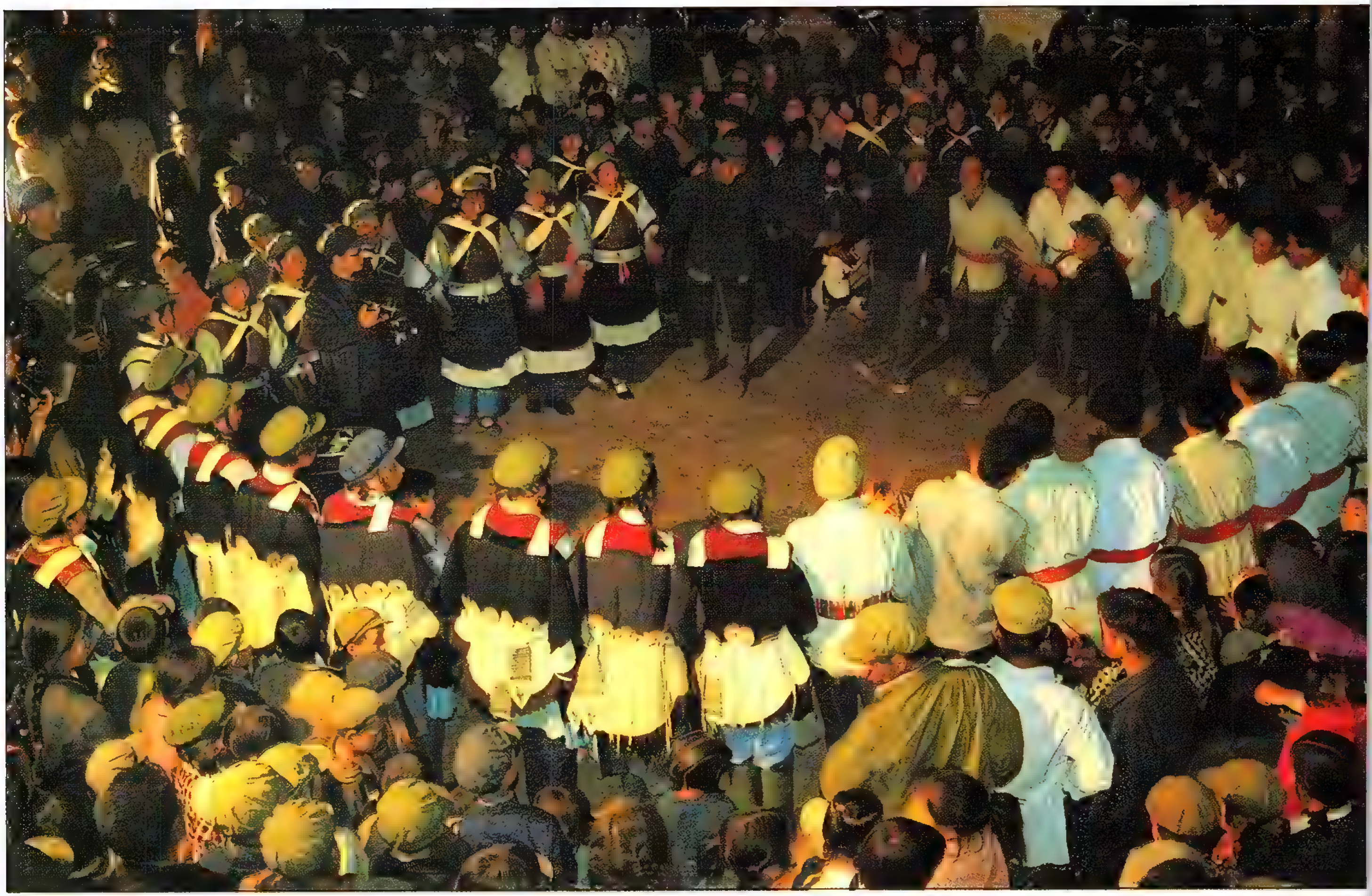


◂ *He Jigui, an old Dongba, performs The Dance of the War God.*

▸ *Naxi women like to wear colourfully embroidered shoes (by Sun Jixue).*

▾ *The "Map of the Dongba Sacred Road" is seven to ten metres long. Using beautiful paintings like this one, old Dongbas can tell a great number of mythological stories.*





During festivals, Naxi people usually perform a traditional dance called **Arere** *(by He Jizhong).*

ng ago, on the vast land where human beings ved there were 360 Dongbas who did not yet now how to dance. At that time in the Milidaji ivine Sea grew a sapling as thin as a hair, alled the Essence-Containing Pagoda Tree, on hich perched a flying dragon, a giant bird alled a Dapeng and a lion. Together they were nown as the Three Victory Gods, and they were e first to learn the dancing styles and methds of the Golden Frog in the sea. The Golden rog in turn learned them from the Goddess anzhushamei in the 18th sky. They first do the ance of the Giant Dapeng bird perching on a ee branch, that is, the left leg lifted up in a esting pose, then the right leg lifted up. They en squat down with outstretched arms, stand p and jump with their heels up in the air."

At present there are more than 20,000 volmes of the Dongba Sutras still intact, but oneird of them are scattered in museums in the nited States, Germany, Japan and Italy. In the st hundred years many Chinese and foreign cholars have done studies on the sutras and ritten academic books on the subject.

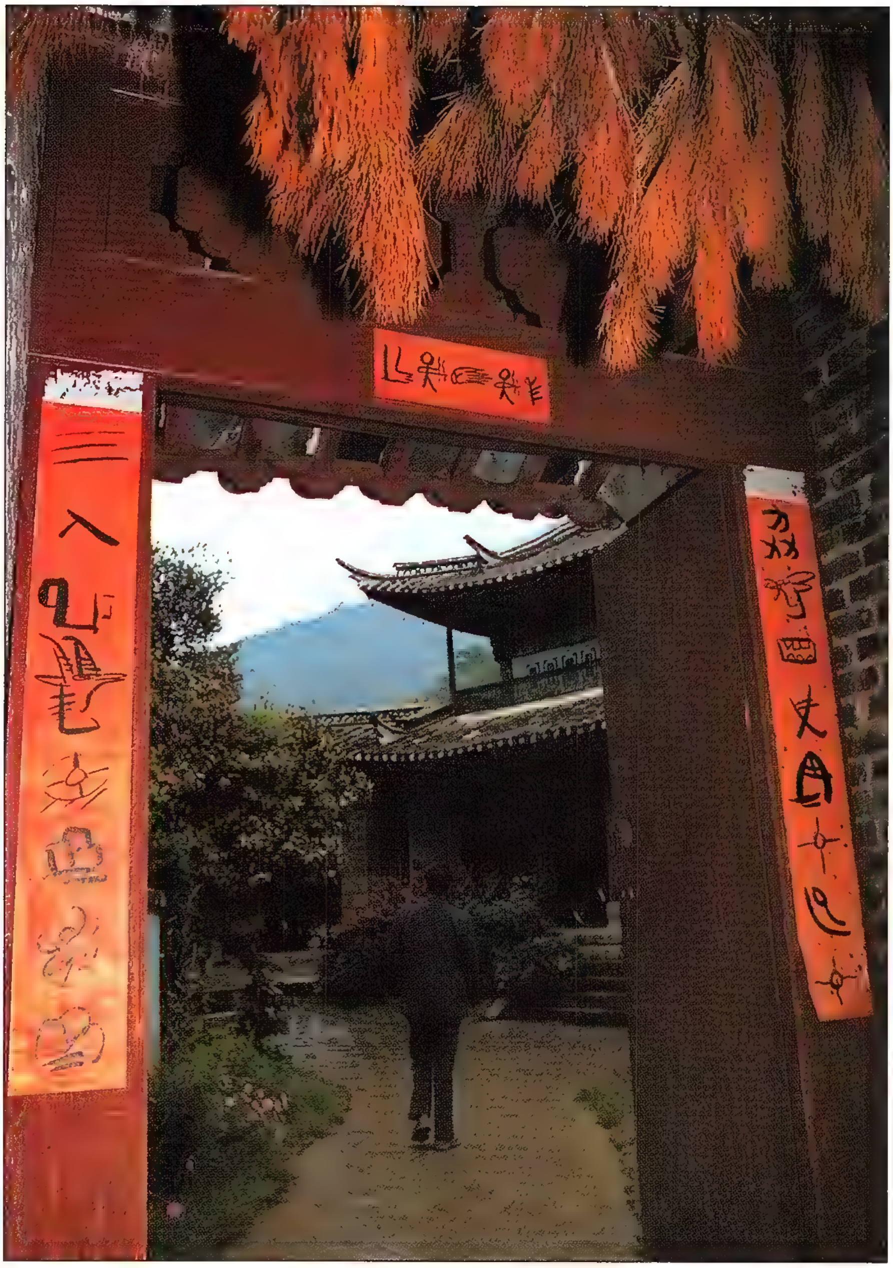
Naxi Culture Alive and Well in Dayan

The Naxi minority not only has its own long nd splendid cultural tradition, but has also aborbed the cultures of other nationalities. This ssimilation can be clearly seen in the Han arhitectural features of the Ming and Qing dynsty buildings in Dayan, by the influence of ibetan Buddhism seen in Dongba sutras and y the frescoes painted during the Ming and ing periods preserved at Dabaoji Temple in aisha Town. In these murals one can see the ivine images of Buddhism and Taoism of the an-populated Central Plains and images of amaism as practised in Tibet, mixed together ith the Dongba religion.

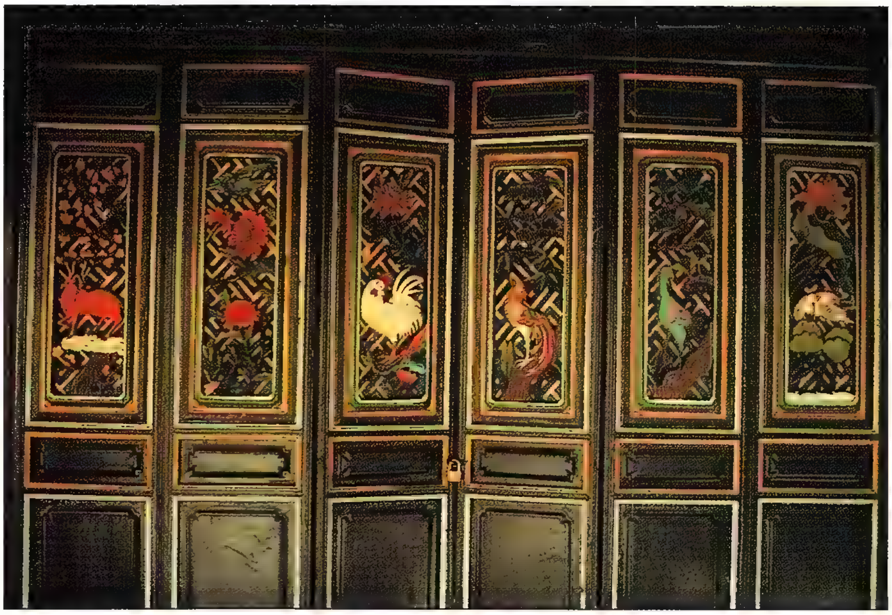
Buddhist images of Avalokitesvara, divine rgins and the Four Celestial Guardians cavort ext to a Lamaist representation of a Happy uddha embracing a naked goddess. There are so scenes portraying the daily life of the Naxi eople, including scenes of dancing, hunting, shing and weaving. The painting technique of e murals is also a mixture of the techniques of oth the people of the Central Plains and Tibet, ong with the original style of the Naxi minory.

Besides visual art, there are music troupes at play ancient Naxi music in Dayan and the eighbouring Naxi villages. The members of the oupes are generally local intellectuals and reowned personages. Ancient Naxi music consts of two parts. The first part is called *Bengshi ili* (translated as *Baisha Ballad*) created 700 years o by the predecessors of the Naxi people. It is large-scale ballad suite, portraying the bloody ar between the Naxi tribe and the Pumi tribe escribed in the heroic epic *Dong'ai Shu'ai*. Senmental and moving, it is played to console the uls of defeated Naxi officials and fighters.

The second part is classical Lijiang religious usic, which is an assimilation of Taoist and axi folk music. The Naxi people have miracuusly preserved musical pieces created 1,000 ears ago, thought to have been long lost in the entral Plains. For good reason, ancient Naxi usic has been called "a living fossil of Chinese usic".



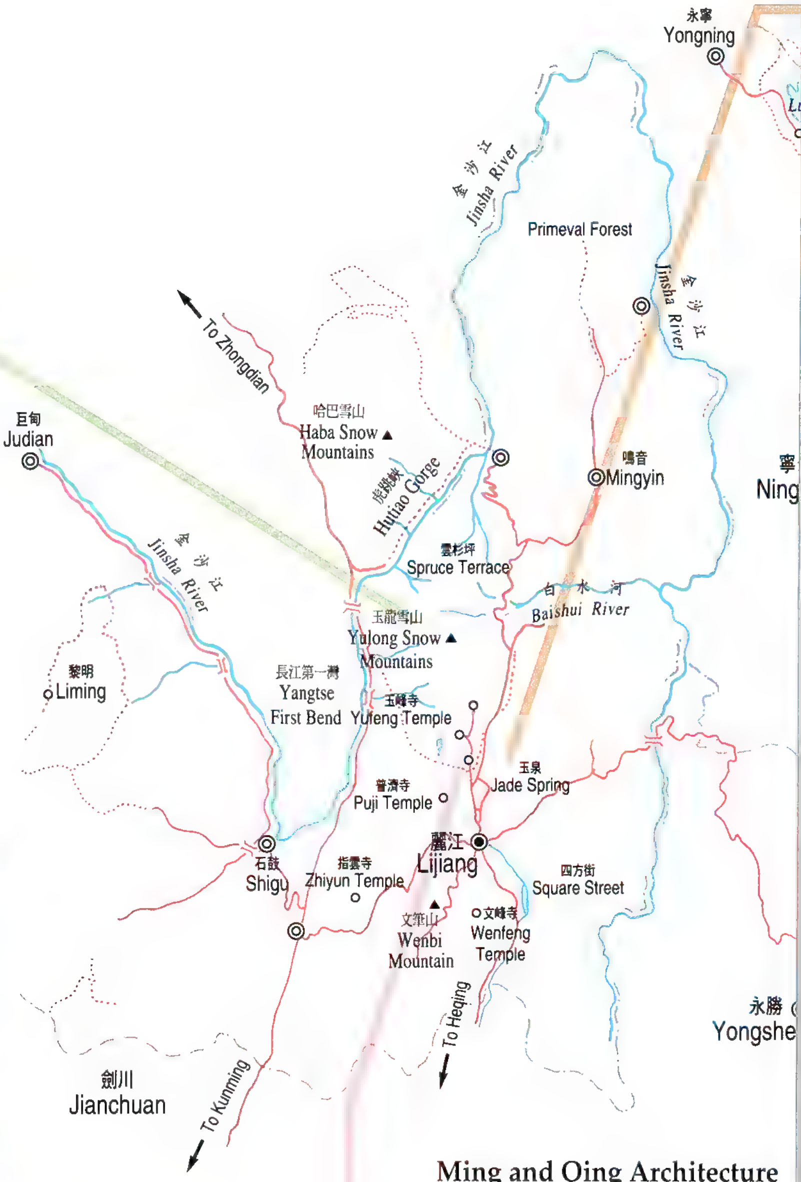
This door couplet written in the Dongba language reads, "The snow has melted, winter is over. Spring has brought mild winds and bright sunshine." The characters are written using the hieroglyphic symbols for a sheep's head, flowers, human feet and tadpoles.



The auspicious objects carved on the lattice doors of many houses in town are exquisite.

Tourist Guide to the Dayan Area

Lijiang Naxi Autonomous County boasts numerous mountains, forests and ancient temples. Below is a brief introduction to three major tourist sites in the area: the Yulong Snow Mountains, the ancient architecture at Baisha and Jade Spring Park.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Yongning
Jinsha River 金沙江
Primeval Forest
Jinsha River 金沙江
To Zhongdian
哈巴雪山
Haba Snow Mountains
虎跳峽 Hutiao Gorge
巨甸
Judian
鳴音
Mingyin
寧
Ning
雲杉坪
Spruce Terrace
Jinsha River 金沙江
白水河 Baishui River
玉龍雪山
Yulong Snow Mountains
黎明
Liming
長江第一灣
Yangtse First Bend
玉峰寺
Yufeng Temple
玉泉
Jade Spring
普濟寺
Puji Temple
麗江
Lijiang
石鼓
Shigu
指雲寺
Zhiyun Temple
四方街
Square Street
文筆山
Wenbi Mountain
文峰寺
Wenfeng Temple
To Heqing
永勝
Yongshe
劍川
Jianchuan
To Kunming

Yulong Snow Mountains

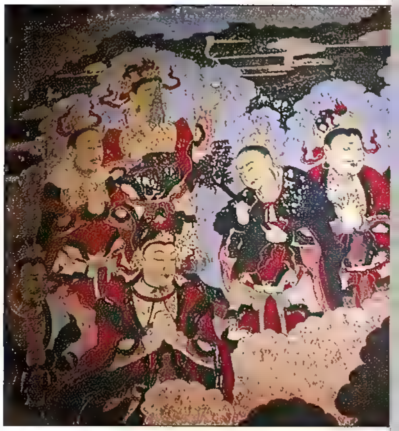
The Yulong Snow Mountains consist of 13 peaks, each covered with snow all year round. The main peak is called Shanzidou (Steep Fan), and at 5,596 metres above sea level it is still virgin soil where no alpinist has ever set foot. At the foot of the Yulong Snow Mountains is a dense primeval forest. It is best to hire a local guide, but there is a route open to tourists: First travel 31 kilometres north from Dayan in a taxi, pass the Baishui (White Water) River and then climb the mountain on foot along a path. After about 40 minutes, you will arrive at a grassland within the forest called Yunsha (Spruce) Terrace, where one has a wonderful view of Shanzidou (Steep Fan) Peak and the glaciers on the snow mountains.

Yunsha (Spruce) Terrace is surrounded by primeval trees.

The main peak of the Yulong Snow Mountains is called Shanzidou (Steep Fan) Peak.

Ming and Qing Architecture in Baisha

Baisha, located 10 kilometres north
Dayan, is the earliest town built by th
Naxi minority. Around Baisha there ar
dozens of palaces and temples now i
ruins, but some of the old buildings con
structed during the Ming and Qing dyn
asties still stand. Of all the ancient struc
tures the most well preserved ones ar
Dabaoji Temple, Beiyue (Northern Moun
Temple and Yufeng (Jade Peak) Temple.



A Baisha mural in Lijiang (by Sun Jix

The gateway to Jade Spring Park

The Pavilion for Viewing the Moon and Five-Arch Bridge are situated amongst the hills and waters of Jade Spring Park.

Jade Spring Park

Situated at the foot of Xiangshan (Elephant Hill) and closely linked with the ancient town of Dayan, Jade Spring Park is the location of Jade Spring, whose water flows down to fill Black Dragon Pool. As the water here is as crystal-clear as jade, it was officially named Jade Spring. It is one of the most famous scenic spots on the northwestern Yunnan plateau. The water in the pool oozes out from the crevices of the rocks in the age-old chestnut woods and tastes cool and sweet. Teahouses use the water to make tea for visitors and tourists.

The park is dotted with pavilions and terraces. The image of the Yulong Snow Mountains is clearly reflected in the pool. A stone-paved path leads through the thick woods up to Elephant Hill, where one has a bird's-eye view of the entire Lijiang.

The Five Phoenix Building to the north of Jade Spring

The water from Black Dragon Pool rushes down from Nine-Eye Waterfall towards the ancient town of Dayan.

The mural paintings in Dabaoji Temple combine
e theology of Buddhism and Taoism as practised in
e Central Plains and Lamaism with the Dongba
igion of the Naxi minority. The murals' lifelike
ures show tremendous skill and are considered
istic treasures of the Naxi people.

Jade Peak Temple, one of the seven Lamaist tem-
s in Lijiang, is nestled in the thick forests. The 300-
ar-old camellia tree here is well known in the re-
n. Within a span of just over 100 days during the
ring and summer months, the tree blossoms more
n 20 times in succession, each time putting forth
usands of flowers. When it is in full bloom, count-
s visitors come to see this beautiful sight.

nslated by Gu Weizhou

is camellia tree at Yufeng Temple is 300
ars old (by He Jizhong).

A Naxi village in Lijiang Bazi

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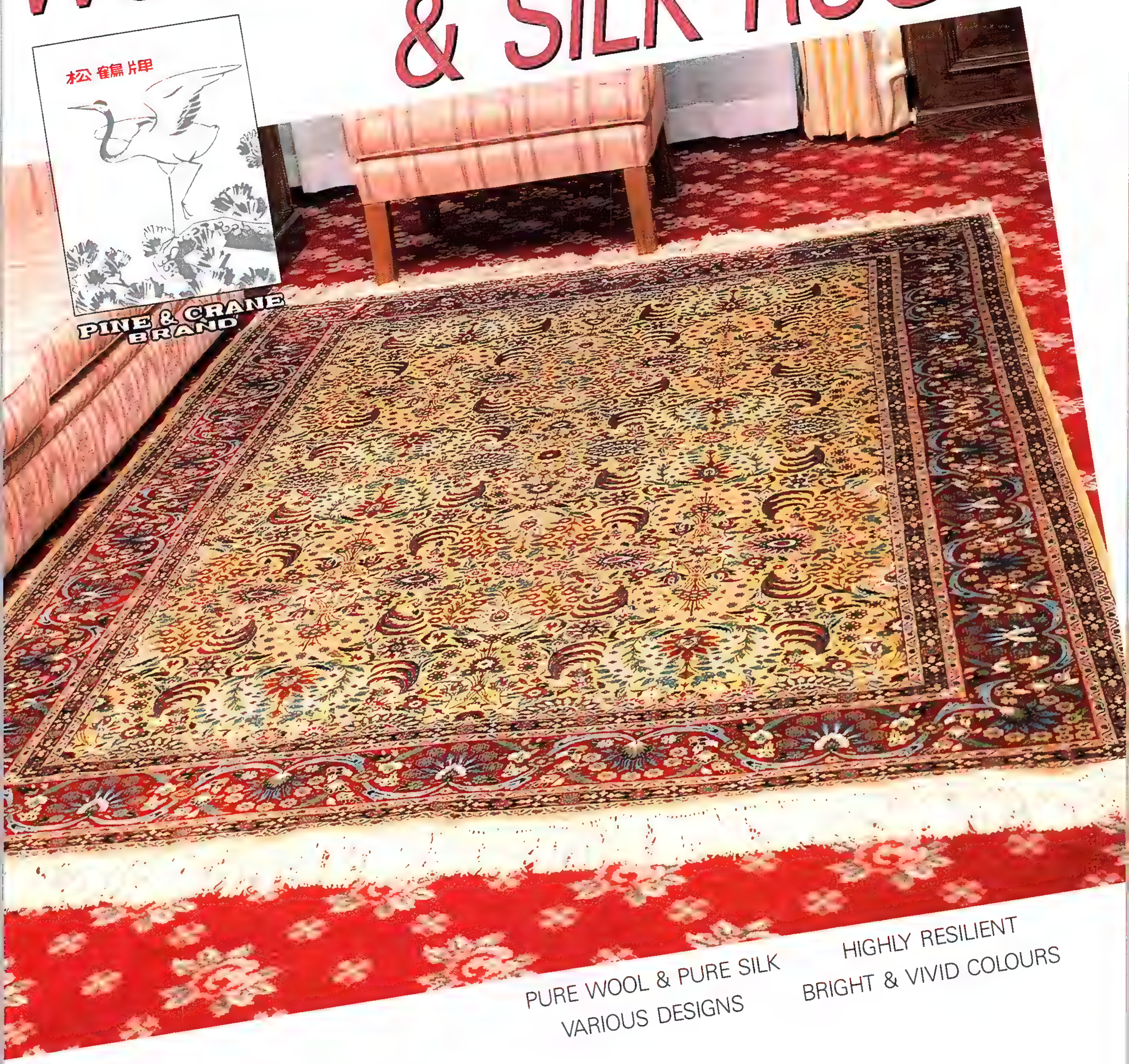

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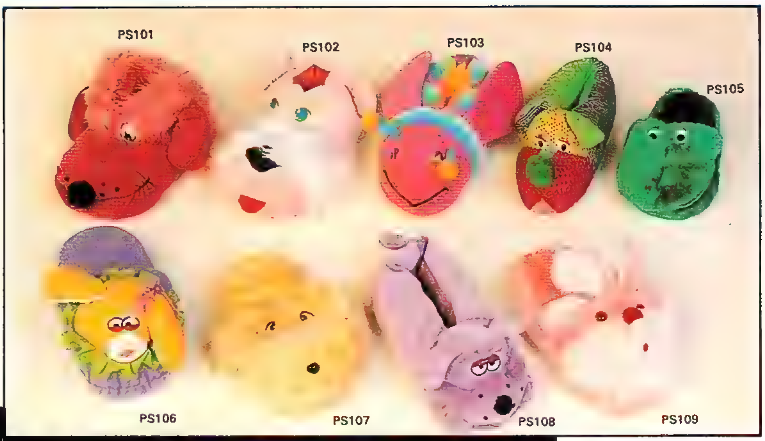
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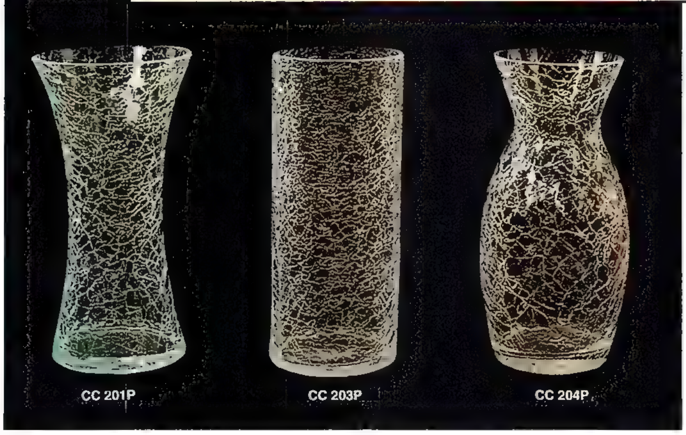
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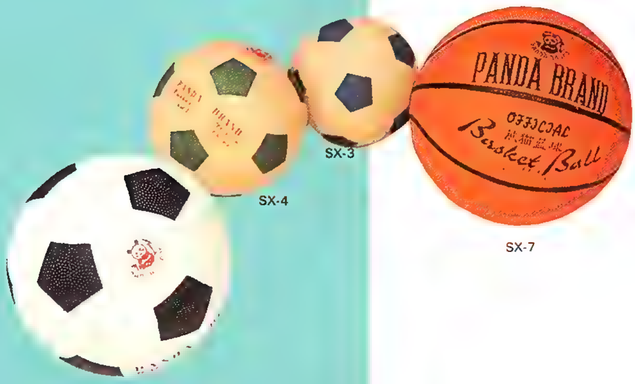
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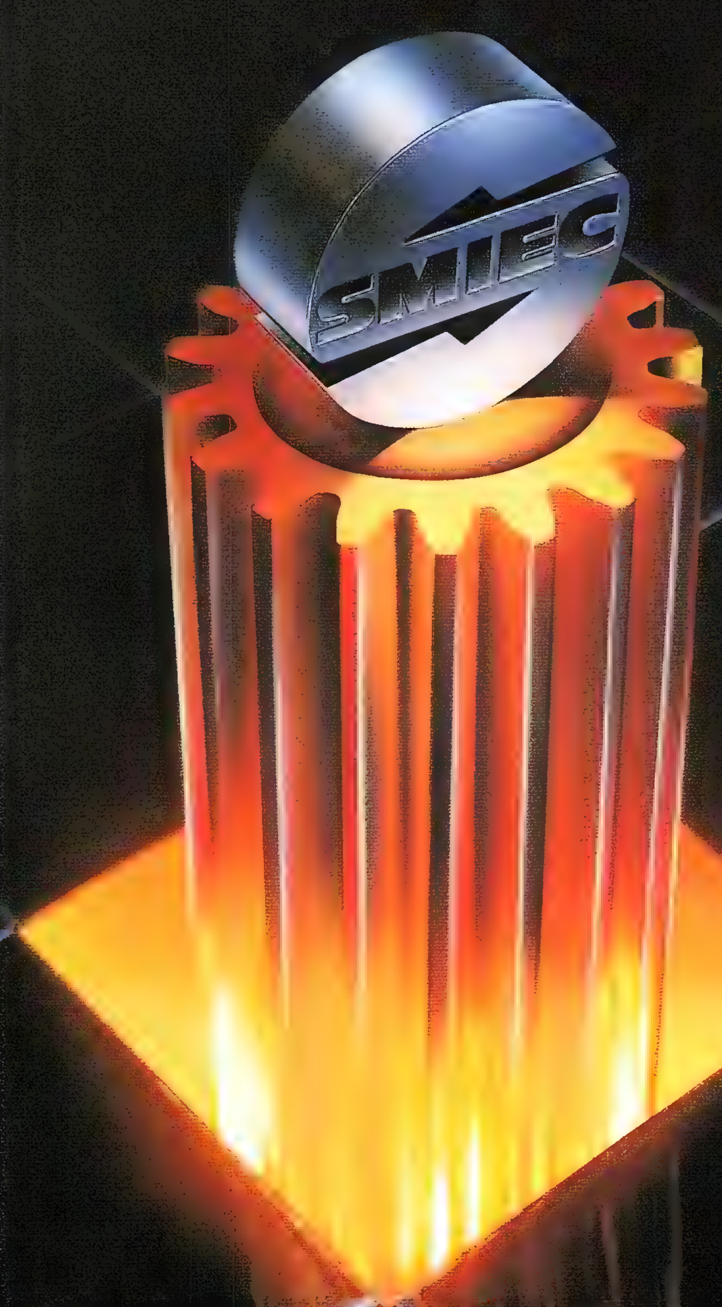

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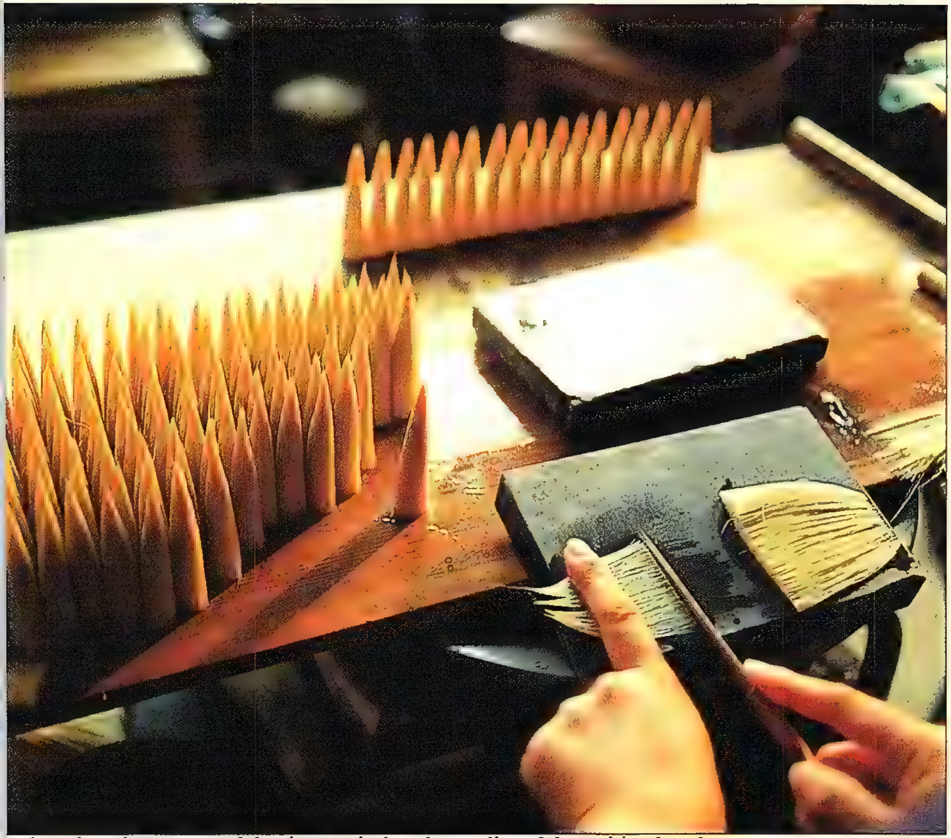
After 12 steps the writing brushes finally reach perfection, meaning that they should have "pointedness, evenness, roundness and resilience".



e length and evenness of the tip are vital to the quality of the writing brush.

The Fine Art of Making Huzhou Writing Brushes

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY
XIE GUANGHUI &
HUANG LUKUI

Shanlian is a small town of only about 3,000 inhabitants near the city of uzhou in Zhejiang Province. Despite its all size it is known as the "home of uzhou writing brushes," because traditional inese writing brushes are manufactured re in nearly every household, with brush-aking skills handed down from generation generation.

A History of Famous Calligraphers

The writing brushes made in Huzhou ined their reputation as a result of their as-ciation with many famous calligraphers oughout history. As early as the Jin Dyn-y (265-420), Wang Xizhi, one of the eatest calligraphers in Chinese history, and er his son, Wang Xianzhi, another calligra-er, were appointed magistrates of Wuxing e old name of Huzhou). As calligraphic ists, both of them greatly valued Huzhou ushes and set strict standards regarding ir selection. They often consulted brush-akers and even modified brushes them-ves, thus helping to gradually improve the ality and standard of Huzhou writing ushes.

Since the Sui Dynasty (581-618) when Wuxing became Huzhou Prefecture, celebrities and scholars who had achieved great success in calligraphic art, such as Du Mu (803-852) and Su Dongpo (1037-1101) held office here. They, too, have contributed to the perfection of Huzhou brush making.

However, it was not until the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) that Huzhou brushes became an independent commercial undertaking. At that time, Feng Yingke and Lu Wenxuan, two natives of Shanlian, were known for their excellent craftsmanship in brush making. It was said that "royal writing brushes" made by Lu Wenxuan sold at prices as high as 1,000 taels of silver for one brush.

Today, Huzhou writing brushes are classified as one of "the four treasures of the studio" together with Anhui ink sticks, Xuancheng paper from Anhui and Duanzhou ink slabs from Guangdong Province.

Five Categories of Brush Hair

There is, in fact, a great variety of brushes under the general term of "Huzhou writing brushes". Differentiated by the materials they are made of and their properties, Huzhou

writing brushes fall into five categories, namely, those made of goat hair, wolf hair, rabbit hair, chicken feathers and mixed hair. These five kinds are also classified into three general categories: the soft and sleek goat hair and chicken feathers are classified as "soft hair"; the resilient and relatively stiff wolf and rabbit hair writing brushes are made of "hard hair", while the writing brushes made of a mixture of goat, rabbit and wolf hair combine both "soft" and "hard" qualities.

According to veteran brush makers, the hair used for making writing brushes should only be plucked in winter. This is because the grass in the fields in winter is short, so the soft hair on small animals such as young goats will not get damaged by rubbing against rough grass stalks. Moreover, winter is the season for animals to shed their old hair and grow a new layer of sleek, long hair. Resilient and with sharp points, such hair is the best for making writing brushes.

Of all Huzhou writing brushes, those made of goat hair rank first in terms of output. There are over 160 varieties of writing brushes made of choice goat hair, each requiring special manufacturing skills. To check the quality of a goat hair brush, first saturate the hair of the brush with water and gently squeeze it with the fingers. If you put the brush up to a light source, the tip, or "heizi" in the jargon of the trade, should appear translucent.

The tip of the brush should be long and even. When you write, you can let the writing brush absorb as much ink as you like, but not a drop of ink should leak onto your paper. Lastly, even after long use your brush should still not fall apart or split. These are the characteristics of a Huzhou goat-hair writing brush.

Good workmanship not only applies to goat-hair brushes, but to all Huzhou writing brushes. The making of a writing brush consists of 12 procedures, including the classification of hair materials, the selection of shafts, the shaping of the tips and the trimming of the tips. The last two procedures are the most vital steps and call for a high degre
of skill.

A Complicated Process

The step called "hair selection" is particu
larly meticulous: with the care of one doin
embroidery, the workers must select the ha
piece by piece and classify them according t
their colour, hardness and length. They the
combine hair from these categories in di
ferent proportions to make writing brus
"heads". The workers are responsible f
shaping the hair into semi-finished "heads".

The steps in the process may vary accor
ing to the requirements of the different writin
brushes, with sometimes as many as 2
steps. Even workers with 20 or 30 years' e
perience must take great care in their job.

Trimming the tips is actually a highly diff
cult task. The workers must trim the superflu
ous or poor-quality hair off the tips, and the
dipping the tips in glue, stroke them betwee
the thumb and the index finger until they be
come sleek, white and pointed.

According to tradition, workers should make writing brushes sitting sideways and facing south.

e "Wang Yi Pin Studio" is a writing brush shop over 200 years old.

cking writing brushes using the traditional method

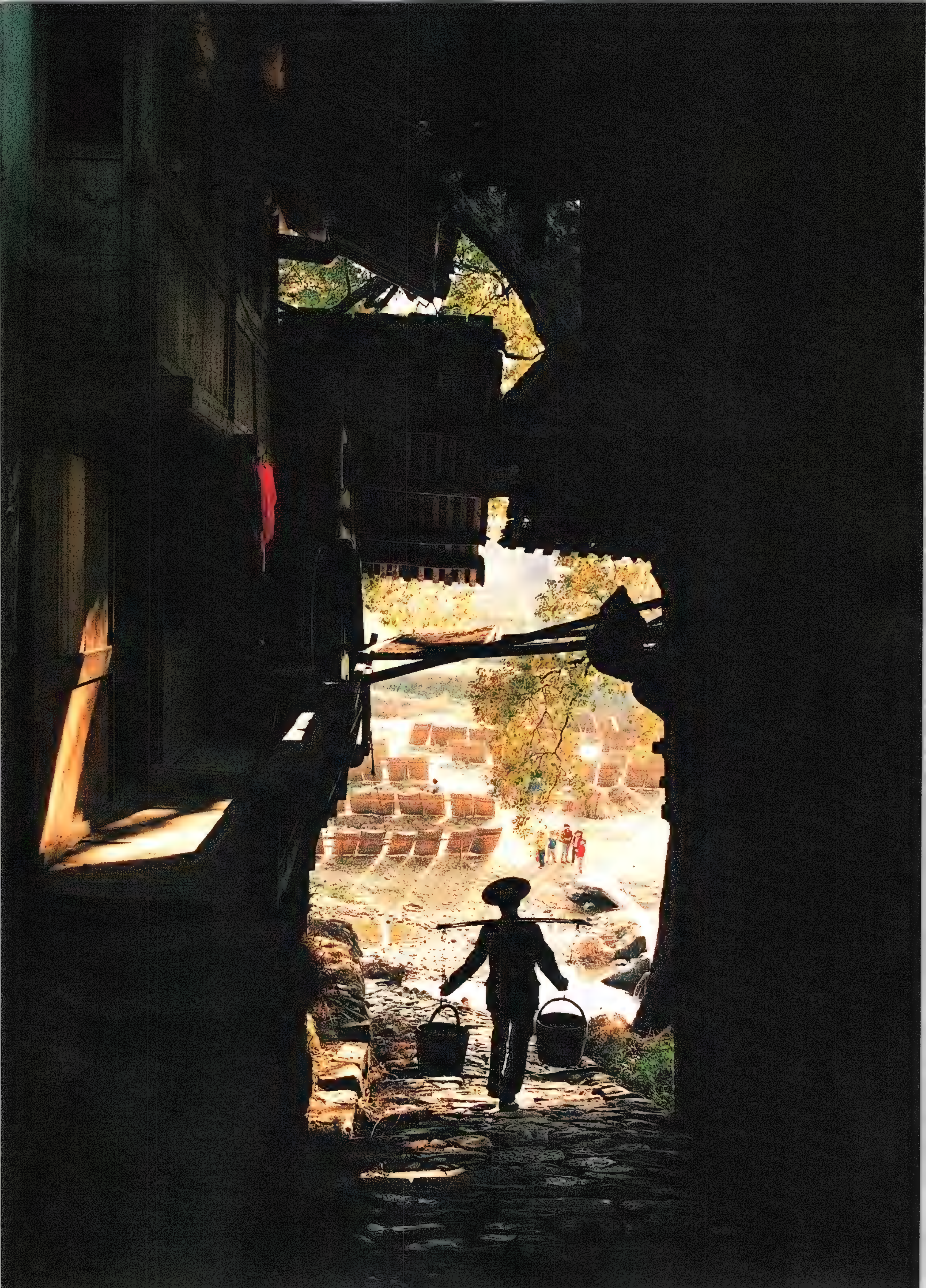
According to the traditional technical requirements for brush making, the worker should sit sideways facing south while working, so that he may have a clear view of the tip he is working on under natural sunlight. He should put the instep of his right foot against his left heel, and sit on a hard stool. By doing so, he can sit upright and maintain the right posture for making good quality Huzhou writing brushes.

The hair portion of Huzhou writing brushes is further divided into several sections, starting from the base and ending at the tip. Each section is treated with its own particular technique, therefore the worker should not only familiarize himself with the procedure for each section, but must also know about the principles involved in shaping the tips and the uses and properties of all sorts of writing brushes. Only then can the worker turn out top-quality writing brushes with sharply pointed tips and even, round heads, each one a perfect work of art.

Translated by Xia Ping

aping the semi-finished product requires gluing and tying to make sh "heads".

To make the perfect shape, workers must sometimes use their mouths to create a pointed tip.



Taishun

Land of a Thousand Bridges

PHOTOS BY SHAO JIAYE ARTICLE BY SHI BAO XIU

To reach the town of Taishun we started out in Wenzhou, an open city on the oast of Zhejiang Province. We drove south nd passed through the towns of Rui'an, ingyang and Cangnan, then turned west and assed Fenshuiguan Pass at the Fujian-hejiang border. Soon we entered a cool reion of green mountains and misty skies, here the ancient town of Taishun is located.

Two mountain ranges, the Donggong and he Yandang, converge in southern Zhejiang. ue to the fact that Taishun is surrounded y mountains, a large number of valleys and treams exist in the area. To cross these innunerable streams and gullies and in order to ave contact with the outside world, the peole of Taishun had to build a great many ridges. In fact, Taishun County boasts nearly ,000 bridges, each one with its own special tyle.

Five Categories of Bridges

Taishun's bridges can be grouped into five atagories: arched wooden bridges, flat ooden bridges, arched stone bridges, flat tone bridges and stepping stone bridges. mong the five types, arched wooden ridges are the oldest, and local people have given them the nickname "centipede bridges" because of their shape.

The town of Sixi in Nanxi has two very picturesque ancient arched wooden bridges. One is called Dongxi, or Eastern Stream Bridge, the other is called Beijian, or Northern Ravine Bridge. They are only 200 metres apart, and are popularly known as "sister bridges".

Dongxi Bridge was built in 1507 during the Ming Dynasty and was renovated three times in subsequent years. This single-arch wooden bridge is 40 metres long, five metres wide and ten metres high. Built over the bridge is a wooden house with flying eaves, upturned corners and a tower in the middle. The inside and outside of the house are well-decorated and painted with dragons and phoenixes, giving it the grandeur of an ancient temple or palace.

Built in 1674 during the Qing Dynasty, Beijian Bridge is younger in age but is both higher and longer. In structure it is similar to its sister bridge. Contemporary Chinese bridge specialists attach great importance to these two bridges and have classed them as among "the greatest national treasures south of the Yangtse River".

Between the towns of Yangxi and Zhouling, south of Taishun, there is an antique arched wooden bridge named Santiao Bridge. According to county annuals, this bridge was first built in the reign of Emperor Zhenguan (627-649) during the Tang Dynasty, making it over 1,300 years old.

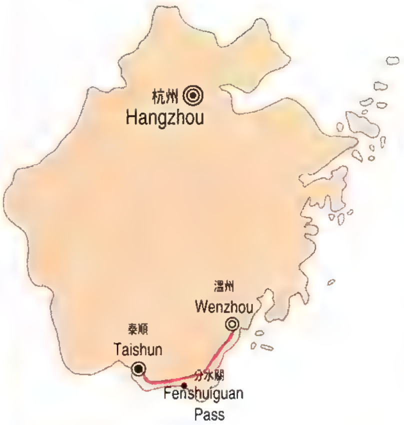
The Purpose of Bridge Houses

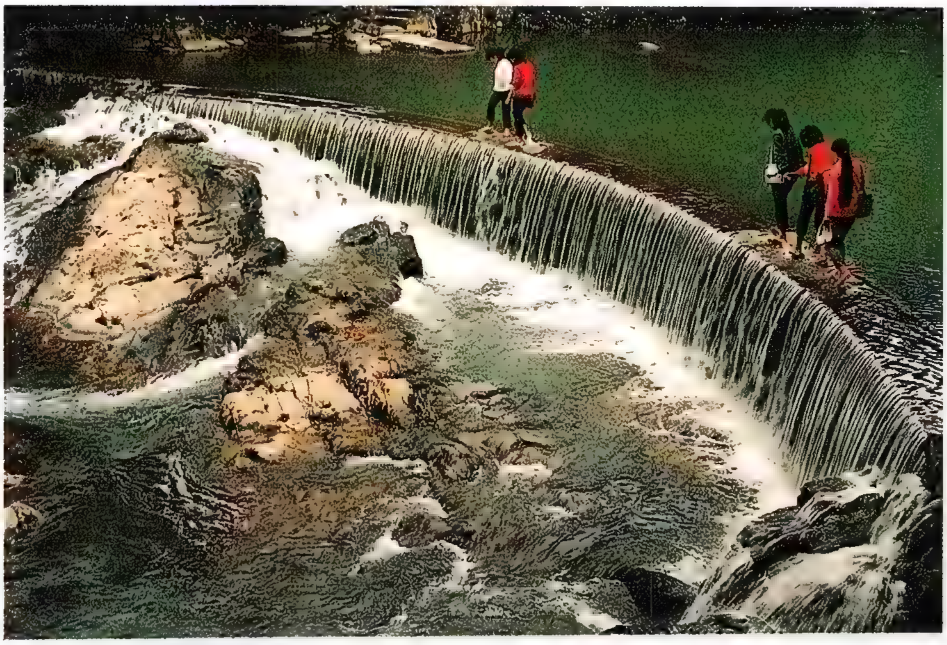
In Taishun all wooden bridges have houses covering them, even flat wooden bridges. Although the construction of the bridge itself is quite simple, some of the flat wooden bridges have very elegantly built bridge houses.

In the town of Sankui not far from Sixi there is a wooden bridge called Xuezhai Bridge, first built in 1512 during the Ming Dynasty. The bridge house over it is two storeys high, and has 14 rooms and 64 pillars. As one looks out the window and sees the tea bushes and forest that cover the mountainsides and the many springs and waterfalls, it is easy to forget that you are standing on a wooden bridge with a gurgling river below.

The people of Taishun built these bridge houses not merely for decoration, but more

Taishun has many bridges like this one, which serve as both a dam and a bridge — but one must take care when crossing!



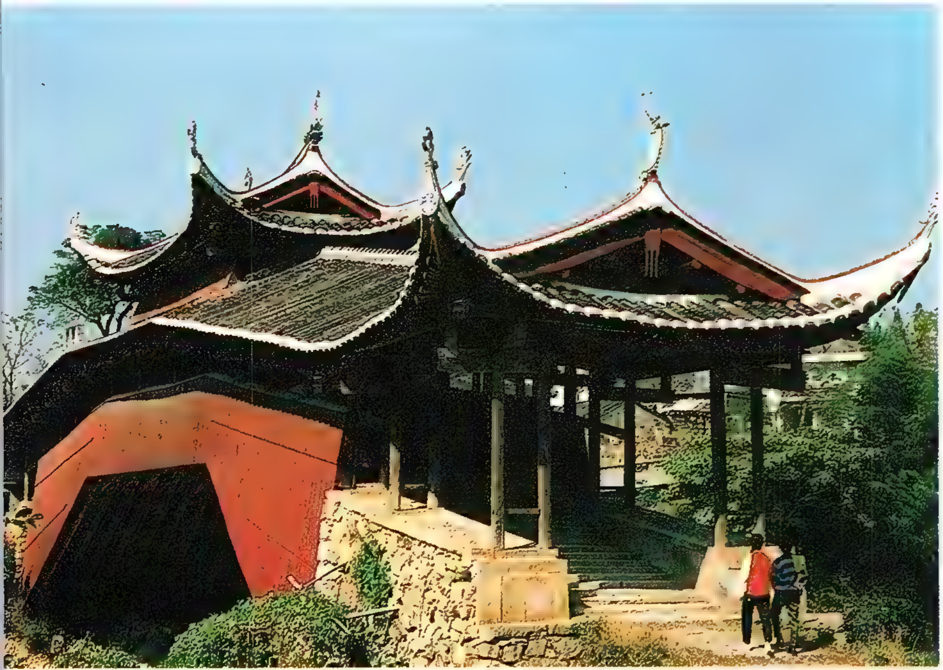


ne of the entrances to eijian Bridge in Sixi

n Taishun pebbles are used not only or building roads and houses, but also or erecting single-arch bridges without ement, something rarely seen in the istory of bridge construction.

Green mountains provide Taishun with a pleasantly cool climate.

ongxi Bridge in Sixi Town is a typical xample of a Chinese wooden arched bridge.



for practical purposes. Being a coastal province, Zhejiang is blessed with both plentiful sunshine and rainfall. Like covered bridges in the West, bridge houses serve to protect the bridge itself from the elements and thereby make it last longer. They also provide shelter from showers, or a resting place for farmers returning home from work and tourists passing through the town.

Generally long wooden benches are installed on either side of the bridge. Some bridge houses serve as teahouses and inns for passing merchants. Those located near villages or towns also serve as meeting halls and recreational centres. During festivals or whenever people have leisure time, these centres are bustling with activity: chess and card playing, chatting, story-telling and theatrical performances. There are even stalls inside that sell sundry goods.

Innovations in Bridge Construction

Located in a mountainous area, Taishun has an abundant supply of rocks which can easily be employed to build bridges. In fact, arched stone bridges account for more than half of the 1,000 or so bridges in the county. Although wooden bridges have the advantages of being both beautiful and easy to construct, timber resoures are limited. Therefore the people of Taishun prefer to use rocks to build bridges.

Taishun has two bridges called "half land bridges", so named due to their unusual structure. They are highway bridges that span deep pools of water, but with one side of the bridge built into a rocky mountain face. This saves the time and cost of having to tunnel through the mountain or erect a dam, while at the same time creating a new style of bridge that efficiently uses the natural environment.

Before the construction of a stone bridge people generally first quarry rocks from the mountains and cut the rocks into stone slabs of a certain size. People in Taishun, however, have made another innovation in bridge construction. In Nanxi there is an ancient bridge called "the disorderly stone arched bridge" built entirely of natural pebbles. Though the pebbles are not uniform in size, the structure of the bridge conforms completely to the theory of mechanics. After hundreds of years of service it still remains intact today.

This 11-metre-long, 5.4-metre-wide bridge is a rarity in the history of bridge construction, not only in China but in the world. For

hough the flat wooden bridge is ot as pretty as the rainbow- aped arched wooden bridge, this vo-storey bridge house adds a rtain charm.

this reason many specialists and tourists have travelled long distances to come and see this unique bridge.

Bridges of Historical Interest

Taishun's flat stone bridges are not so different from those found in other waterside towns, built of long stone slabs placed on girders. However, another kind of stone bridge found here, called a stepping stone bridge, is of great interest because it is perhaps the earliest type of bridge ever built in China. It is quite likely that the Chinese people first started building bridges according to this design.

Stepping stone bridges are composed of stone blocks placed one step apart. The water in the river or stream below the bridge flows in between the stone blocks. Except during the rainy season when the water level rises, this is the easiest and most economical way for farmers to cross shallow rivers and small streams.

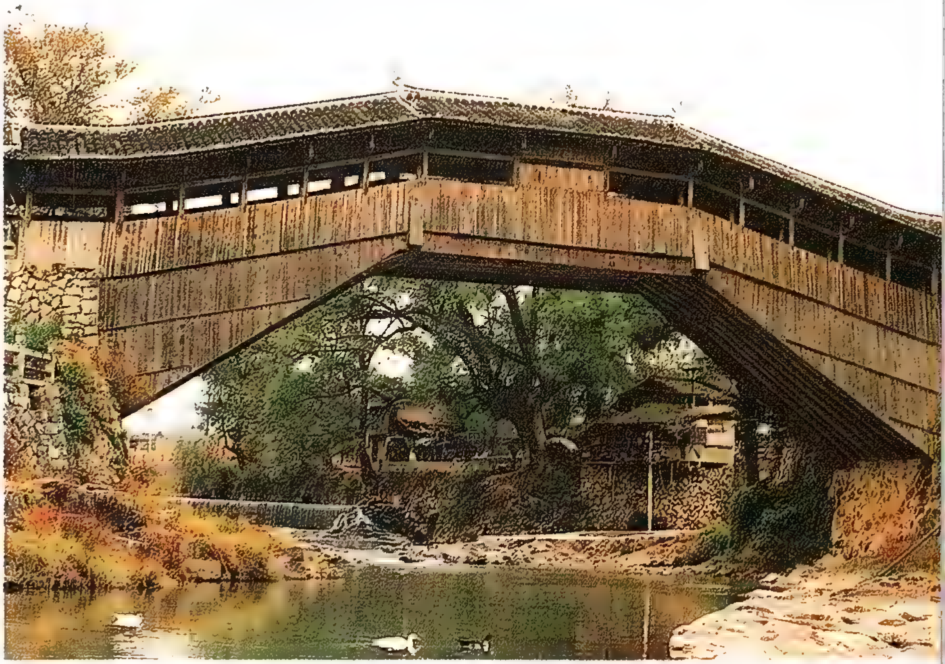
Taishun still has 245 stepping stone bridges, the shorter ones made of only a dozen stone blocks while the longer ones have over 200. The stepping stone bridge in Shishui is the longest and most spectacular, 133 metres long and built of 223 stone blocks. In the soft red glow of dawn or dusk it becomes particularly beautiful, as farmers with hoes over their shoulders and flocks of sheep or cattle traverse the stone bridge, their shapes reflected in the water below.

One popular bridge story frequently related by Taishun residents tells the tale of Huilan Bridge, built by four generations of the Tao family. The story goes that in the mid-1800s a man named Tao Hualong and his family built a stone bridge over a river in Siqian Village in order to make river crossing more convenient for the local people.

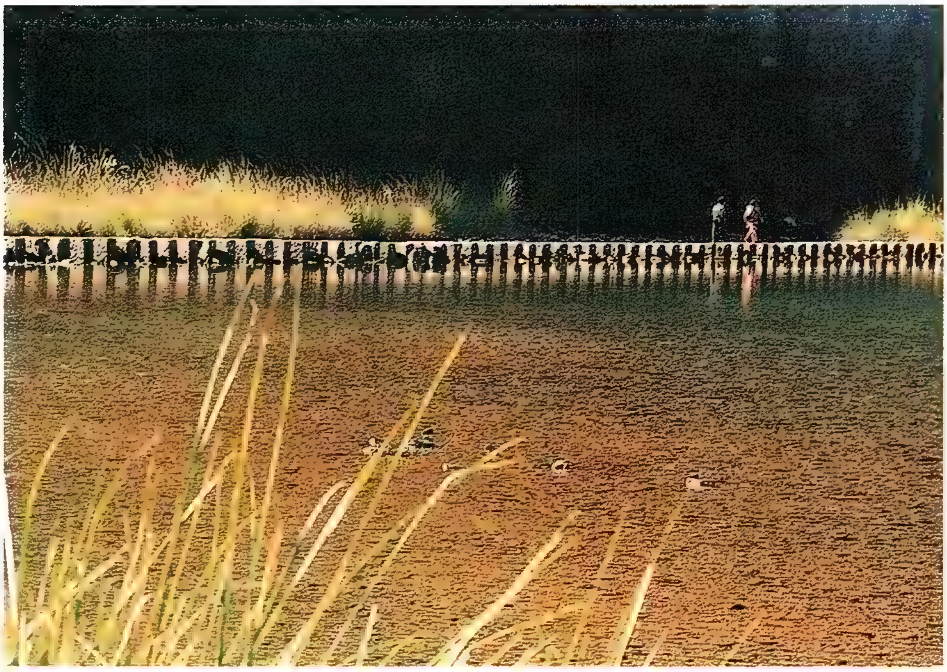
In 1848, shortly after the project had begun, Tao Hualong died of an illness. At his deathbed he asked his son not to abandon his unfulfilled wish and to complete the bridge. Living up to his father's wishes, Tao's son and grandsons continued his work. After several years of hard work and at a cost of over 8,000 taels of silver, they completed the bridge in 1855. Unfortunately, only several months later a flood washed out the bridge. Full of anger and sadness and exhausted physically and financially, Tao's son died soon afterwards. Seventeen years later, one of Tao's grandsons collected sufficien funds and chose a new site to reconstruct th bridge. However before the project was hal completed he died from overworking.

His elder brother then took over, and together with his sons and nephews continue the project. After three years of strenuou work and an expenditure of ten thousan cash, a four-arch stone bridge, 85 metres long 5.5 metres wide and over 12 metres high wa eventually completed in 1876. To this da Huilan Bridge is still the longest highwa bridge in Taishun, and serves as a testamen to the ingenuity and skill of people in thi "land of a thousand bridges".

Translated by Anne Yan



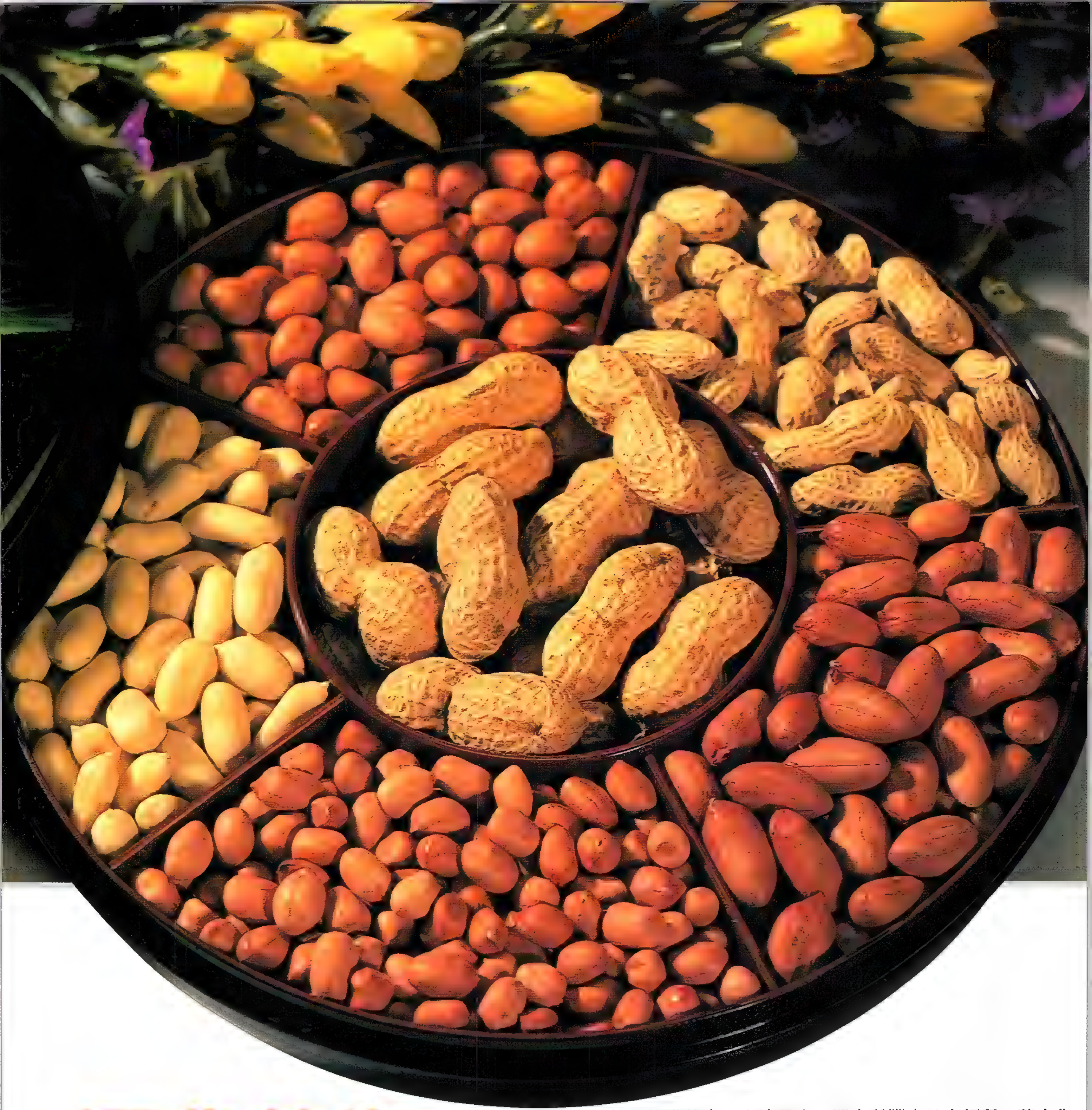
Xuezhai Bridge in Sankui was built in 1512 during the Ming Dynasty.



Stepping stone bridges are the most primitive type of bridge in China.

Top Right : *A mountain village in Taishu*

▸ *Skilled bridge builders, the people of Taishu can also construct houses in various style*



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These small traders buying and selling Russian goods often wear their own products.

Large Russian dolls are big sellers at the Heihe market.

Trade at the Sino-Russian Border

PHOTOS & TEXT BY PENG ZHENGE

НАРОДНЫЙ БАЗАР ПО ТОРГОВЛЕ КИТАЯ С
开业庆典

his is one of the two markets Harbin has opened to cope with the creasingly brisk trade between China and Russia.

Mr. Zhang Huiqun of Harbin is a well-known collector of Soviet souvenirs.

At a big evening party celebrating the Golden Autumn Festival in Mudanjiang City, Russian body builders perform for the audience.

Separating Heilongjiang Province and Russia is a borderline 3,045 kilometres long. For many years, border trade between China and e former Soviet Union was slack, but with the normalization of lations between the two countries in 1988 it has greatly improved.

Trade here was first conducted in the form of barter trade. Refrigators, washing machines and other light industrial products were xchanged by the Chinese for timber, iron, steel, raw materials, haresters, trucks and machinery from the former Soviet Union. At the me time the two countries carried out tourist trips on a reciprocal asis. At first tourists from both countries did sightseeing only. After e disintegration of the Soviet Union, civilian trade between China d Russia rapidly developed. Carrying large and small bags, tourists ow can cross the border to do business as well as sightsee.

As a result, markets or fairs have opened in the border cities, with eople of many nationalities now taking part. One group at the marets deals specifically with buying and selling Russian merchandise. any people have struck it rich in this way. One trader in Harbin, I as told, bought two Russian pedigree dogs. He spent 1,800 yuan to hire two drivers who drove the dogs in an air-conditioned taxi straight to Beijing. He himself went to Beijing by plane to meet the buyers. It was obvious that he would make a handsome profit from the deal.

Euro-Asian Street in Heihe

The northern city of Heihe on the southern bank of the Heilongjiang River has been running a one-day trip on a reciprocal basis with the Russian city of Blagovescensk on the opposite bank since September, 1988. Every day more than 200 people from both countries take part in the tour. Chinese tourists board the tourist train in Harbin in the evening and arrive at Heihe at six the next morning. At Heihe they buy lighters, cosmetics, sportswear, jackets, down coats and other goods which are popular among Russians. These things are then exchanged for Russian goods when they go sightseeing in Blagovescensk the following day.

What the Russian tourists bring to the Chinese side are watches, telescopes, woollen coats, hats and leather goods. They are then sold at Euro-Asian Street – formerly Zhongyang Avenue – in the centre

Tractors and other goods are piled up on the docks of Blagovescensk waiting to be transported to Heihe.

Russian tourists start showing their merchandise as soon as they land.

Daheihe Island on the Heilongjiang River has become a market for Sino-Russian trade.

As soon as they get off the train tourists rush to take snapshots in order to apply for visas. Snapshot studios on Heihe streets are doing a brisk business.

Many Russian girls work as waitresses in the big and medium-sized cities in Heilongjiang Province, specially employed to cater to Russian tourists.

of Heihe. The hundreds of stalls along the street are crowded wi people and the air is filled with the shouts of pedlars.

The one-day trip has become an important industry in Heihe ar has attracted business people and small traders from other parts the country. It has also brought prosperity to the city.

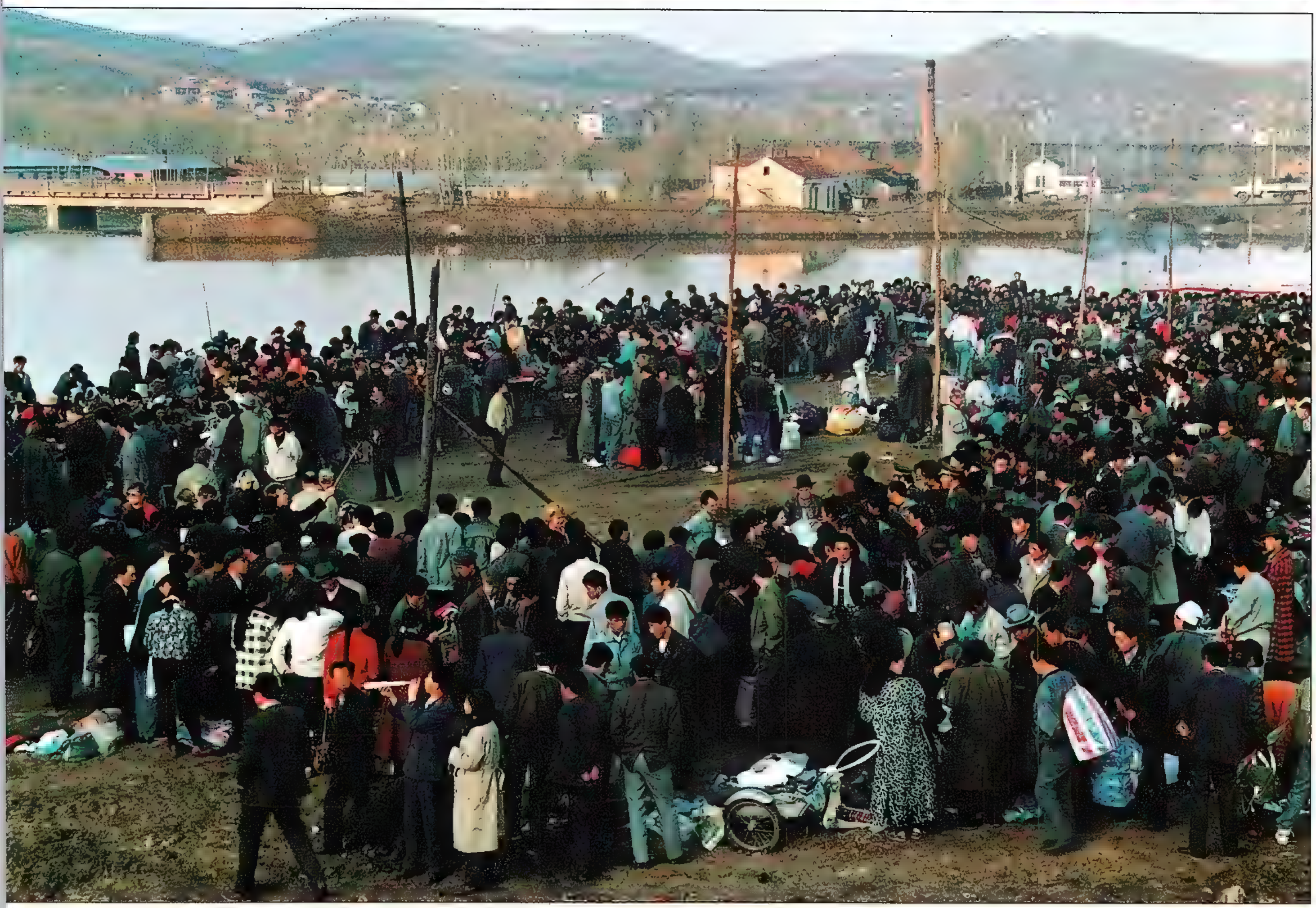
The Trade City of Suifenhe

In the southeastern part of the province, Suifenhe is an importa trade city located along the Chinese Eastern Railway, which links t European and Asian continents. It is near the coast and the Russi city of Vladivostok, the biggest port city in the Commonwealth Independent States. Suifenhe has a history of nearly 100 years as open trade city. Early this century, merchants from Russia, Japa Korea, the United States, Britain and Australia came to the city to business. After the reopening of border trade at the end of the 80s t city's trade companies established stable trade relations with mo

This fellow walking along the street in a woman's fur coat is trying to attract buyers.

The newly built gate at Suifenhe Port

The prevailing form of trade at Suifenhe's border fair is barter trade.



n early mornings the border trade fair in Suifenhe is already crowded with people. Russians stand inside the enclosure and Chinese outside as hey do trade.

ıan 300 enterprises from 15 members of the Commonwealth of Inde-endent States, and with over 5,000 domestic enterprises. In addition, usiness people from Japan, the United States, South Korea and Hong ong have flocked to the city. Every day more than 10,000 people om other places visit the city, many of them transnational tourists.

Suifenhe has erected many new buildings and a tall gate at the order. Before daybreak the city square fills with people. An open pace the size of a basketball court is partitioned off with iron railings the centre of the square. Russians stand inside the railings while hinese stand outside, each touting their own wares. If one trader is nterested in another's goods, they meet at the railing and start to argain. After 8:00 in the morning, people in the square begin to isperse. Local pedlars spread out the goods they have bought from ussians on the ground and invite potential customers to take a look. atecomers might buy something, and although the goods are sec-nd-hand, it is still a good bargain.

ranslated by Anne Yan

The Sino-Soviet Friendship Plaza was closed down because it was too small, and a more spacious plaza has been erected on the outskirts of the city.

Souvenirs from the Former Soviet Union in Harbin

PHOTOS BY PENG ZHENGE   TEXT BY ZHANG HUIQUN

High-power military telescopes can be bought at the market in Harbin at a price of only several hundred yuan.

Stamps from the former Soviet Union are exquisitely designed.

Silver tableware from Russia is of good quality and low in price.

Among Soviet cameras, the most valuable are those modelled upon Germany's Leica cameras produced in the early years of the former Soviet Union.

ight & Bottom: *Commemorative adges, coins and medals from the ormer Soviet Union are of great alue to collectors.*

Tourists to Harbin in recent years have discovered a new place o visit – the trade market at Jianshe Street. Here one can see tens f thousands of tourists and business people from the Commonealth of Independent States who have come to trade with Chinese eople. Besides doing trade, the market also provides a good oportunity for collectors of Soviet memorabilia.

The former Soviet Union has a fascinating history and unique lk customs, and many Soviet objects are valuable collectors' items, ome of which are listed below.

ameras After the Second orld War the former Soviet nion imported camera prouction techniques and quipment from Germany nd produced a great number f cameras imitating those om Germany. Compared ith German products they e not inferior in quality and ey look very similar in style. heir prices, however, are uch lower. For instance, the orkee 135 and the Fad 135 ere modelled on Germany's eica cameras. One such cama costs no more than mb¥300 at the border maret. The Kiev model 135 is a py of Germany's Contax nd can be bought for mb¥200-300. A Kiev 303 ini espionage camera, nique to the former Soviet Union, is even cheaper at Rmb¥100. In ddition, there are over a dozen kinds of other cameras which are ld at low prices. They can be bought either for collection or for actical use.

Soviet mechanical watches either made with gold or gilded with gold are cheap but well-made. Those decorated with portraits of Soviet leaders and other Soviet designs are of particular value.

ight viewing instruments Night viewing instruments for oth military and civilian use are available at the market. Fine uality night viewers can be bought at prices from Rmb¥700-2,000. lescopes of various types are even cheaper.

tamps The former Soviet Union issued a great number of amps which are well-printed and low in price. A gilded iniature sheet can be bought at the cost of Rmb¥2 and a amp bearing a world-famous painting costs even less. is estimated that about 100-200 kinds of former Soviet iniature stamps and over a thousand kinds of Soviet amps have entered Chinese markets. Old hands forest that before long the demand for Soviet stamps ill be greater than supply and their prices will soar.

ledals and badges The former Soviet Union sued a considerable number of military medals d badges. The medals and badges come in a wide variety and are exquisitely made. Most of them are gilded and can be bought for Rmb¥20-50. High ranking medals and badges which were produced in small numbers are rarely seen. Ordinary badges cost only a few yuan or less. If one is patient enough, one can also find Soviet army epaulets, chest badges and insignia.

Commemorative coins The former Soviet Union issued about 100 commemorative coins made of copper and nickel alloy, gold and silver. One coin made of copper and nickel alloy costs Rmb¥2-20 while a silver coin costs nearly Rmb¥100. Gold coins are very rare. With the increasing number of collectors, their prices are rising.

Watches The former Soviet Union has produced hundreds of kinds of wrist watches, pocket watches and table clocks. Among them, watches bearing portraits of Gorbachev, Bush, Yeltsin and Mao Zedong, and pocket watches whose cases are carved with famous Russian paintings, characters in religious stories, and emblems of the Soviet state are of particular value to collectors. The mechanical watches are mostly gilded or made of gold and their price ranges from Rmb¥50-200 a piece.

Dinner sets Russian dinner sets are as good as those made in European and North American countries, especially the gilded and silver alloy tableware which is beautifully designed, finely made and low in price. Favourites of collectors, a gilded or silver alloy spoon costs from Rmb¥3-10. There are also a dozen kinds of stylish tea-urns which cost around Rmb¥200. Their aesthetic value is perhaps greater than their practical value.

In addition to these objects you can also find Russian souvenirs such as jewel ornaments, various kinds of fox skin and other hides and skins. They are of fine quality and low in price. Their distinctive styles tell you immediately that they are Russian products.

Because of a lack of daily necessities and inflation, many Russians are willing to sell objects of great collecting value. Thus, this is an excellent time for those in search of all sorts of Soviet memorabilia to come to Heilongjiang and engage in border trade.

Translated by Anne Yan

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PHOTOGRAPHER'S
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Lake Poyang in Jiangxi

PHOTOGRAPHER: WU DONGSHUANG

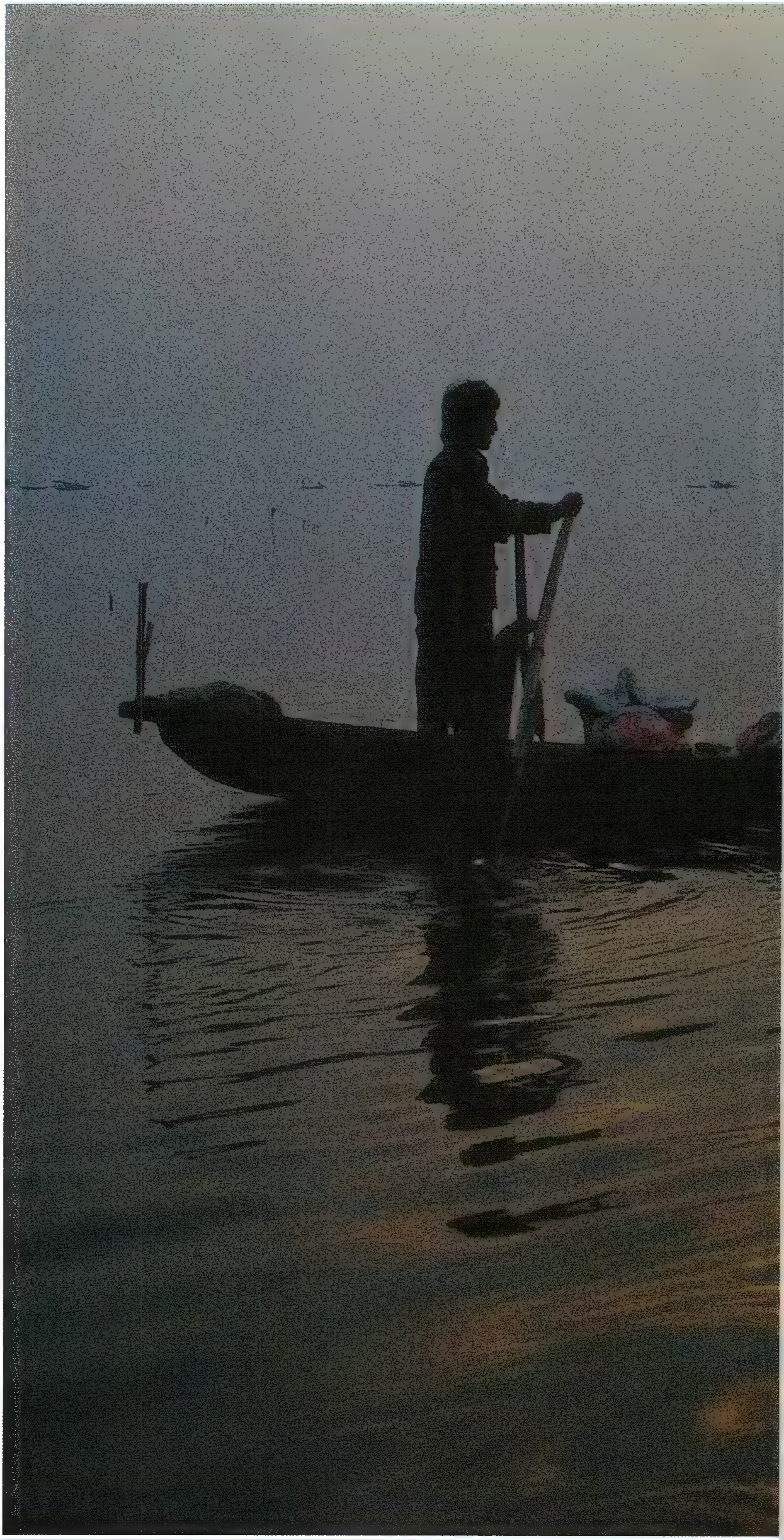
By the time the morning sun crimsons the sky and the lake surface, fishermen living by Lake Poyang are already setting off for work on the lake.

Located at the northern part of Jiangxi Province on the south bank of the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtse River, Lake Poyang is China's largest freshwater lake. Broad in the south but tapering towards the north, it looks like a gourd tied to a long belt formed by the Yangtse.

With vast waters and waves stretching far into the distance, Lake Poyang, taking in the water from five rivers — the Ganjiang, the Fuhe, the Xinjiang, the Xiushui and the Pojiang — pours into the Yangtse in the north before the river empties into the sea. The whole water system of Lake Poyang is formed by the many meandering streams and lakes scattered all over the region.

Lake Poyang boasts a vast water area and moderate water temperature. The lush weeds in the lake provide an excellent habitat and breeding ground for fishes and is actually a natural farm producing more than 100 species of fishes.

Translated by K.V. Ku



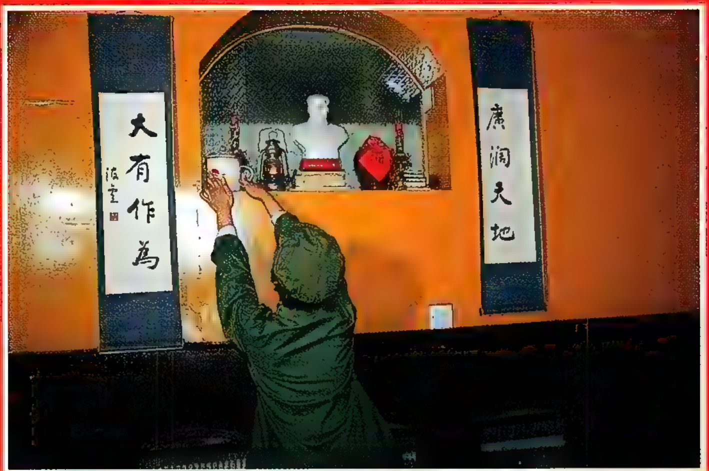
老插酒家

Recalling the Past at the Laocha Restaurant

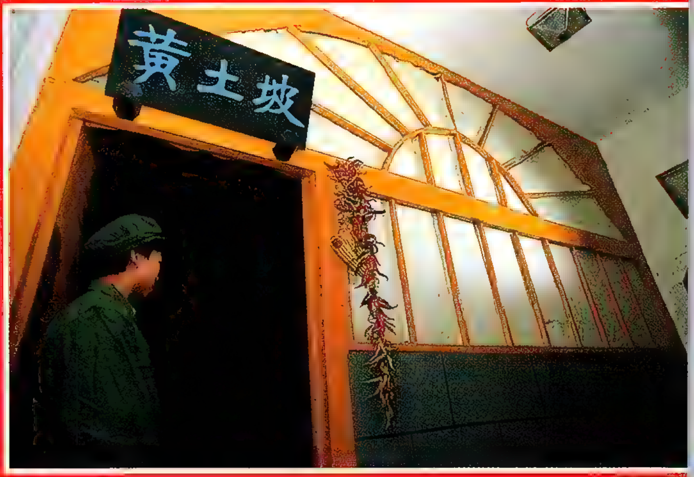
PHOTOS BY WONG CHUNG FAI TEXT BY LIU CHANG ZHONG & TIAN FU

Most of the diners are former "laochas" who come here to relive the past.

The lantern, harness and slogans such as "Go to the border regions t open up wastelands and make your roots in the countryside" are ver reminiscent.



This niche is set up exactly as it was when educated youths fervently worshipped Mao Zedong.



The restaurant's dining halls are named after places where the educated youths were concentrated. The Loess Slope Dining Room resembles the dwelling caves on northern Shaanxi's Loess Plateau.

Last year in Zhongguancun in Beijing, a new restaurant opened called the Laocha Restaurant. At first, people were unable to make head or tail of this unusual name. In fact, "laocha" is not a family name but a title used 25 years ago to describe middle and high school students who were sent in the millions to live and work in the countryside. At that time over three million educated youths from Beijing were sent to the most remote regions of the country: the wilderness of Northeast China, the grasslands in Inner Mongolia, Xishuangbanna in Yunnan and the Loess Plateau in Shaanxi and Shanxi. Their average age was 20, with the youngest only 15 when they left their parents.

Today, however, these people are middle-aged, and like people everywhere, as they get older they grow fonder of recalling the past. This restaurant seems tailor-made to meet that need. Customers come here in groups, and after a few cups of wine they invariably start to tell stories from the past. As they recall how they played pranks on each other when they lived together in the countryside, they might burst out laughing; however, when they think of their young friends who died unnecessarily in those remote areas, tears soon replace laughter. At times they might turn their topic of conversation to the present day, often happily discovering that many of them are now quite successful in business or other fields.

The Laocha Restaurant has gained considerable fame in its less than one year of business. With more and more former "laochas" coming to dine here, it has become so crowded that people often have o wait in long queues to get in.

The restaurant has an imitation ancient-style gate. Inside the gate s a map of China, on top of which is an inscription reading, "The countryside is a vast field in which to use your talents", a slogan Mao Zedong then used to encourage the Red Guards to go to the countryside. Beside the arge map is a huge portrait of Huang Xing, the owner of the restaurant.

Inside the hall on the eft is the Loess Slope Dining Room, decorated ntirely in the style of he dwelling caves on he Loess Plateau in northern Shaanxi. Hung next to the lattice window on the right side of the door are strings of red peppers and a bundle of golden ears of maize, making the room reminiscent of the northern Shaanxi dwelling caves where the students once lived. There is even a niche similar to the kind which farmers used to worship statues of Mao Zedong.

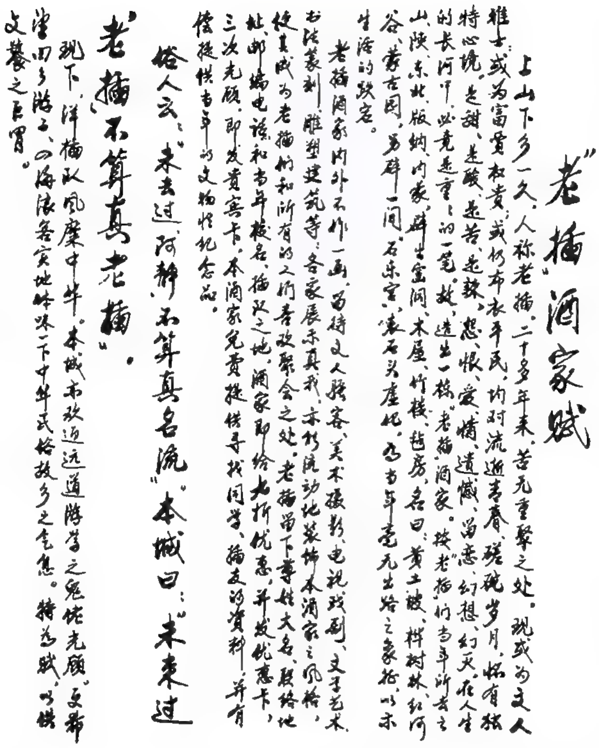
After the dwelling caves is the Bamboo Tower Dining Room of the Dai People. Hung on the wall here are a horn-shaped sickle and a green kit bag like the ones the Red Guards used to use. Next to the Bamboo Tower Dining Room are the Birch Forest Dining Room, resembling the Great Northern Wilderness, and the Mongolian Yurt Dining Room, decorated with saddles and harnesses.

Huang Xing is a former "laocha" himself. He understands the need his generation feels to recall their hardships and talk with other people who had similar experiences. In Huang Xing's attempt to recreate life in the countryside, he not only has had the dining rooms specially furnished, but also asks the attendants to dress up like people during the "cultural revolution". Music piped into the various dining halls are folksongs from those regions, or are songs composed by the students when they lived in the countryside. Most interestingly, the restaurant also provides a series of set dishes like the food the students used to eat, such as steamed cornbread, corn gruel, food made of husked *kaoliang* (sorghum), mare's milk, pickles, pickled cabbage with boiled pork, roast whole lamb, rice wine, fried cakes and so on.

Once a couple from Xi'an came to the restaurant. They were also educated youths who had been sent to do farm work in Shaanxi Province. When they entered the Loess Slope Dining Room, heard the northern Shaanxi folksongs and saw the replicated caves, they were overwhelmed with emotion, mumbling, "We've come back home again." And when the Northern Shaanxi cornbread and pickles were brought to the table, they could not help but burst into tears.

Not only is the Laocha Restaurant reminiscent, but it also provides guests with delicious food. Like any other restaurant, it serves famous dishes from all parts of the country. However, its unique atmosphere, created by using the social phenomenon of a special period in Chinese history, is able to do something that no other restaurant can do: allow an entire generation of people to relive some of the most important and trying years of their lives.

Translated by Xiong Zhenru



"老插"酒家赋

上山下乡一久，人称老插。二十多年来，苦无重聚之处。现或为文人雅士，或为富贾权贵，或仍布衣平民，均对流逝青春、蹉跎岁月，怀有殊特心境。是甜、是酸、是苦、是辣，怨、恨、爱、情、遗憾、留恋、幻想、幻灭，在人生的长河中，必竟是重重的一笔。故，造出一栋"老插酒家"。按老插们当年所去之山、陕、东北、版纳、内蒙，辟出窑洞、木屋、竹楼、毡房，名曰：黄土坡、桦树林、红河谷、蒙古园，另辟一间，名乐室，装石头座椅，乃当年毫无出路之象征，以示生活的跌宕。

老插酒家内外不作一画，留待文人骚客、美术摄影、电视戏剧、文学艺术、书法篆刻、雕塑建筑等，各家展示真我，亦就流动地装饰本酒家之风格，使其成为老插们和所有的知青聚会之处。老插留下尊姓大名、联络地址、邮编电话和当年插队之地，酒家即给九折优惠，并发优惠卡，三次光顾，即发贵宾卡。本酒家免费提供寻找同学、插友的资料，并有偿提供当年的文物作纪念品。

俗人云："未去过阿静，不算真名流"，本城曰："未来过老插，不算真老插"。

现下，洋插队风靡中华。本城亦欢迎远道游学之鬼佬光顾，更希望四方游子、四海侨客实地体味一下中华民俗故乡之气息。特为赋，以供文艺之巨胃。

"The Ode of the Laocha Restaurant" describes the spirit of the former "laochas".

The oil painting at the entrance to the restaurant depicts the restaurant owner when he lived in the countryside.

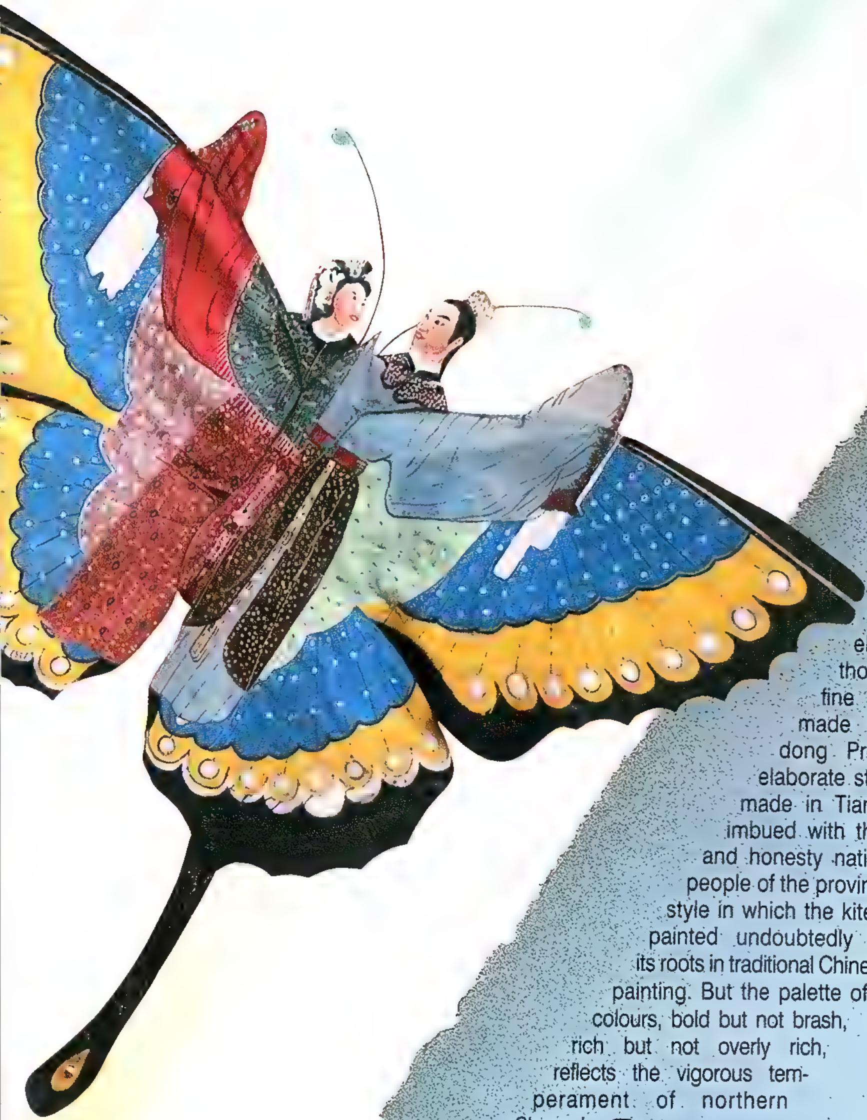
All the attendants at the Laocha Restaurant are dressed up like students sent to work in the countryside 25 years ago.

FOR THE
COLLECTOR

Kites All Over the Sky

PHOTOS BY WEI WANGXIANG

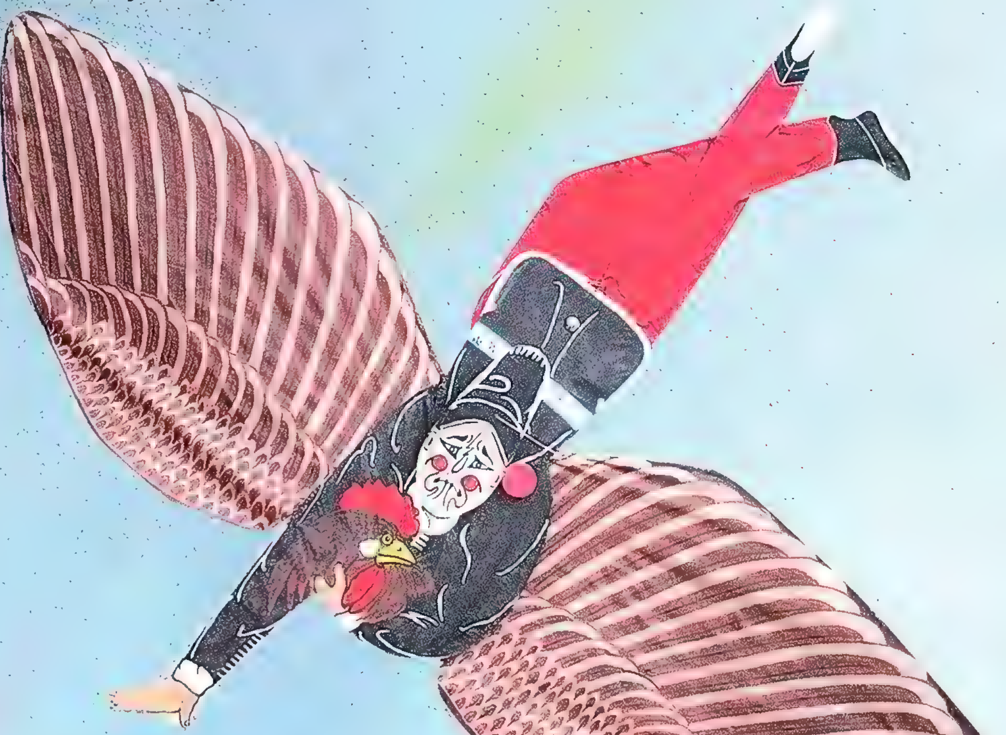
TEXT BY LU YAO



With all his somersaults and his dashing to and fro, the Monkey King cannot escape the watchful gaze of Vairocana Buddha. Transformed here into a single butterfly (usually a pair), Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai – lovers in the Chinese tragedy – rise gracefully into the blue sky, entrusting to it the bitterness of their earthly fate. Shi Qian, the chicken-snatcher of the Chinese classic *Outlaws of the Marsh*, scurries up and down among the clouds with his head down and his feet up, the very picture of a sneak thief....

Shaanxi's kites share common features with kites elsewhere in China. And, though they may lack the fine colouration of kites made in Weifang, Shandong Province, and the elaborate structure of kites made in Tianjin, they are imbued with the simplicity and honesty native to the people of the province. The style in which the kites are painted undoubtedly has its roots in traditional Chinese painting. But the palette of colours, bold but not brash, rich but not overly rich, reflects the vigorous temperament of northern Shaanxi.

Translated by Chen Jiaji



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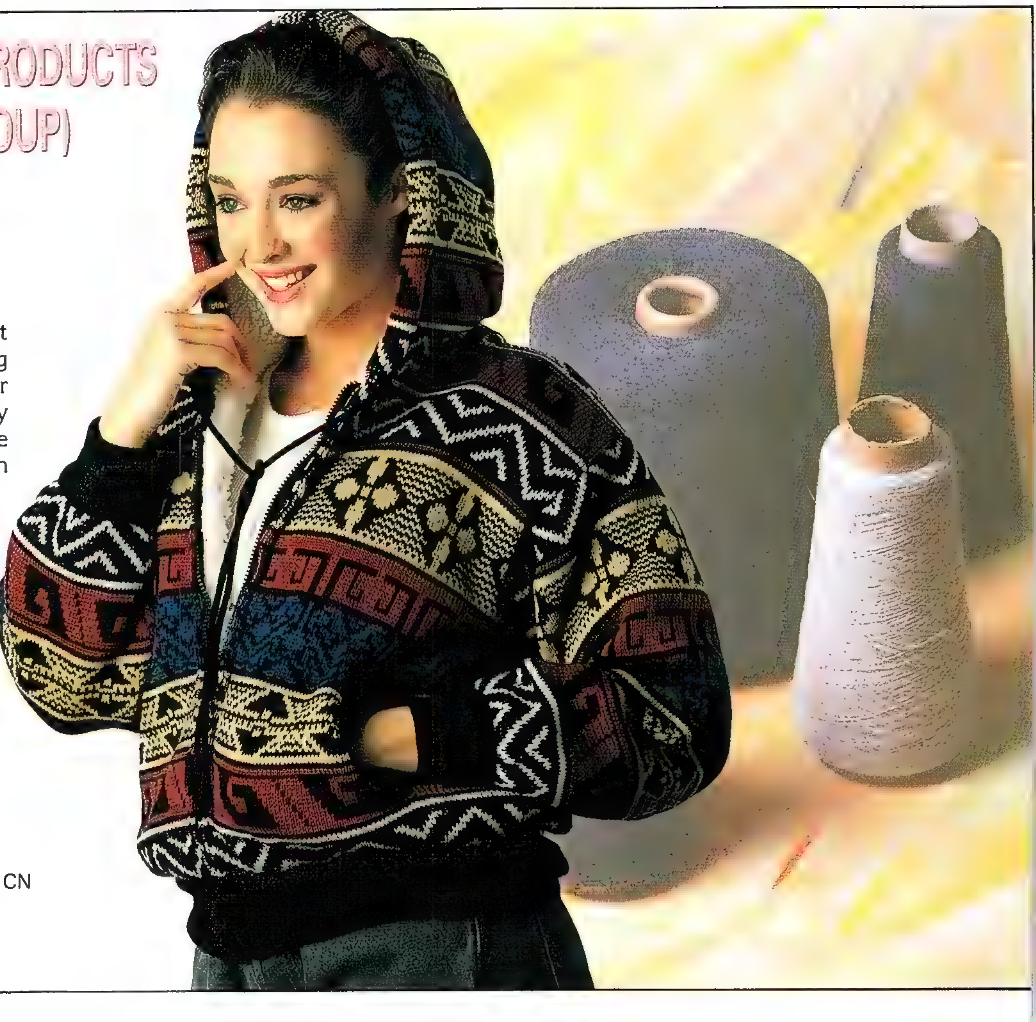
(025) 4453256, (025) 4453257
TELEPHONE: 4457488



離不開的——

源…魅力

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廣州電池廠始建於一九二八年，是目前全國規模最大，產銷量、出口量爲全國同行業之首，並直接經營出口電池業務的乾電池生產專業廠。該廠集中外電池生產技術之精華，吸收世界先進科技，加強科學管理，使具有六十多年歷史的廣州電池更加精益求精。產品有鋅錳、鹼性鋅錳、銀鋅、鋰錳、鋰氯化銀、鋰氯化亞銅等八個系列的“555”牌、虎頭牌、航空牌、五羊牌、飛象牌等各種型號的乾電池，共七十二個品種。“555”牌電池分別榮獲國家銀質獎和北京首屆國際博覽會金獎，“555”牌 LR6 鹼性電池於一九九〇年獲國質量金質獎。該廠產品以質量優良遠銷東南亞、中東、非洲、歐美等七十多個國家和地區，深受用戶歡迎。

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Shanghai Toys Import and Export Corporation
165 Pu An Road, Shanghai, China.
Cable: "CHINATOYS" Shanghai Tlx: 33037 CN
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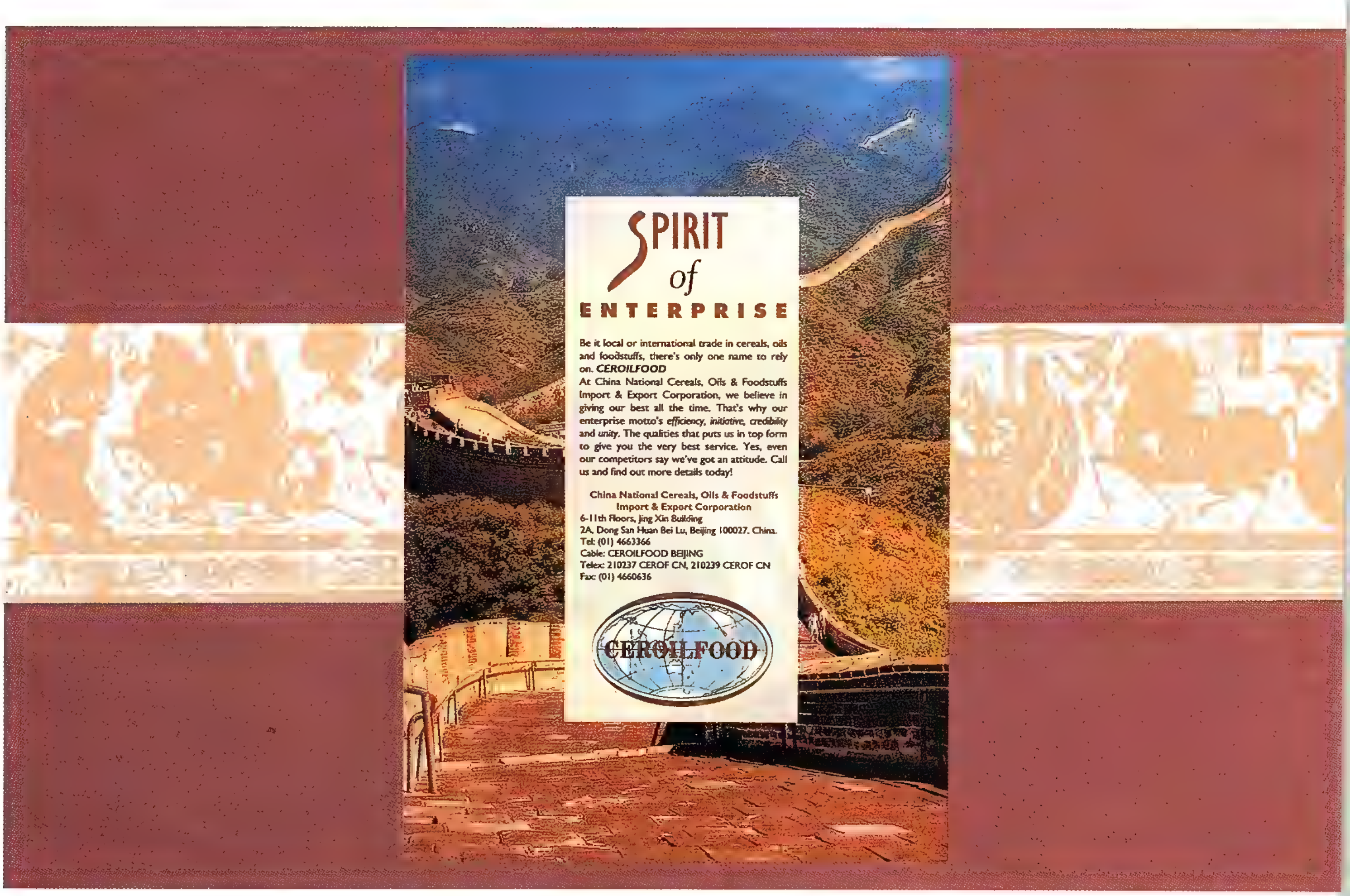
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Major Hotels in Hubei, Yunnan and Henan Provinces

Wuhan, Hubei

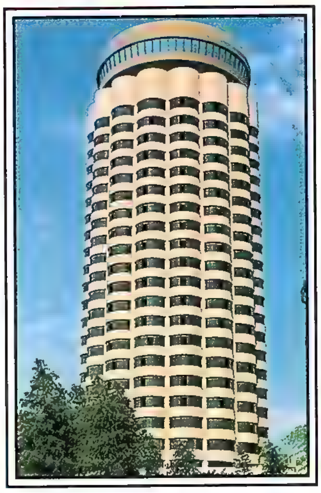
Jianghan Hotel
江漢飯店
245 Shengli Street, Hankou, Wuhan, Hubei 430014
Tel: 211600 Telex: 40150 HBIAN CN
Fax: 214342
GM: Lou Zhiqin
106 rooms and suites Rates: US$50
Located 28 km from airport, 1km from railway station

Lijiang Hotel
湖北麗江飯店
1 Tiyuguan Road,Wuchang, Hubei 430071
Tel: 713668 Telex: 400282
Fax: 713638
Opened 1 November 1990
126 rooms and suites Rates: US$30
Located 6 km from airport
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, banquet room (300 seats), disco, billiard room, business centre, beauty salon, shopping arcade, clinic

Qingchuan Hotel
晴川飯店
88 Ximachang Street, Hanyang, Wuhan 430050
Tel: 446688, 444181
Telex: 41034 HBQC CN
Fax: (027) 564964
GM: Jiang Wu Yi
Opened July 1984
300 rooms and suites Rates: US$48
Located in the city centre, 15 km from airport, 13 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥40; railway station, Rmb ¥30
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, bar, billiard room, sauna, beauty salon, massage, clinic, meeting rooms, gym, tennis court, karaoke

Shengli (Victory) Hotel
勝利飯店
222 Shengli Street, Hankou, Wuhan, Hubei 430014
Tel: 212781, 231241 Telex: 400276
Fax: 232604
63 rooms and suites Rates: US$42
Located 17 km from airport, 8 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥35; railway station, Rmb ¥19
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, beauty salon, massage

Wuhan Asia Hotel
武漢亞洲大酒店



300 Jiefang Avenue, Wuhan, Hubei 430030
Tel: (027) 568777, 566245
Fax: (027) 559372, 556786
265 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US$60-90, suite US$130-500
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, revolving restaurant, conference room, banquet room, swimming pool, karaoke, disco, nightclub, bar, sauna, massage, shopping arcade

Wuhan Hotel
武漢飯店
332 Jiefang Avenue, Wuhan, Hubei 430040

Xinhua Hotel
新華飯店
45 Jianghanyi Road, Wuhan, Hubei 430020

Xuangong Hotel
武漢璇宮飯店
57 Jianghan Road 1, Wuhan, Hubei 430021
Tel: 210365 Fax: 216941

Yangtze Hotel
長江飯店
539 Jiefang Avenue, Hankou, Wuhan, Hubei 430030
Tel: 562828
Telex: 40204 (40205) YGHTE CN
Fax: 554110
GM: Iron Chung
Opened 28 April 1987
205 rooms and suites
Rates: Standard twin US$62, deluxe twin US$75, suite US$108-230
Located in the heart of Wuhan, 12 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, banquet room, karaoke, disco, beauty salon, billiard room, clinic, games room, business centre, bar

Yichang, Hubei

Nanhu Hotel
南湖賓館
63 Fusui Road, Yichang, Hubei 443000
Tel: 224033 Fax: 224066

Taohualing Hotel
桃花嶺飯店
29 Yunji Road, Yichang, Hubei 443000
Tel: (0717) 222515 Fax: 445701
GM: Xianyu Kaiguo
Opened 1 October 1957
275 rooms Rates: US$47
Located in the heart of the city, 25 km from airport, 0.7 km from railway station
Facilities: Dance hall, business centre, bar, karaoke, gym, billiard room, massage, beauty salon, health club

Three Gorges Hotel
三峽賓館
38 Yanjiang Road, Yichang, Hubei 443000
Tel: 224911, 223438
Telex: 40253 YSXBG CN
Fax: (0717) 442025
GM: Lee Mingyi
Opened October 1986
132 rooms and suites Rates: US$42
Located 10 km from airport, 2.5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, dance hall, bar, shopping arcade

Jiangling, Hubei

Jingzhou Hotel
荊州賓館
4 Yingbinguan Road, Jingzhou Town, Jiangling, Hubei 434100
Tel: 467600 Fax: 467479

Shashi, Hubei

Jiangjin Hotel
江津賓館
1 Gongyuan Road, Shashi, Hubei 434000
Tel: 212496, 214850

Zhanghua Hotel
章華賓館
100 Zhongzhan Road, Shashi, Hubei 434000 Tel: 213401

Shiyan, Hubei

Shiyan Guesthouse
十堰賓館
54 Chaoyang Road, Shiyan, Hubei 442000
Tel: 62712 Telex: 40226 HBSFA CN
Fax: 65589
GM: Zhang Xiang Yu
Opened December 1984
220 rooms and suites Rates: US$25-40
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥30; railway station, Rmb ¥10
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, business centre, shopping arcade, swimming pool, tennis court, billiard room, gym, beauty salon, massage, bar

Xiangfan, Hubei

Fancheng Hotel
樊城賓館
46 Changzheng Road, Xiangfan, Hubei 441003
Tel: 442165, 443880 Telex: 443226
GM: Qiao Chunxi
Opened 1950
447 beds Rates: Standard US$25, suite US$40
Located 15 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥20; railway station Rmb ¥8
Facilities: Chinese restaurants, dancing hall

Kunming, Yunnan

Begonia (Haitang) Hotel
海棠飯店
Huancheng Road East, Kunming, Yunnan 650000
Tel: 3137573
GM: Wang Xiuying
231 rooms and suites
Rates: FEC ¥140
Located next to the eastern bus station, 9 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Golden Dragon Hotel
金龍飯店
575 Beijing Road, Kunming, Yunnan 650011
Tel: 3133104 Telex: 64060 GDHKM CN
Fax: 3131082
GM: Mai Qiliang
Opened January 1988
302 rooms and suites Rates: Standar
US$60-80, suite US$150-750
Located 4 km from airport, 1 km from
railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, FEC ¥100
railway station, FEC ¥30
Facilities: Business centre, restaurants offering Western, Japanese, Guangdong and Yunnan dishes, conference/banquet rooms, indoor swimming pool, gym, bar, karaoke, disco, tennis court, clinic

Golden Flower Hotel
金花賓館
143 Huancheng Road West, Kunming, Yunnan 650031
Tel: 3132118
152 rooms and 17 suites
Rates: FEC ¥160
Located 20 km from airport,10 km fro
railway station

Golden Peacock Hotel
金孔雀飯店
Daguan Park, Kunming, Yunnan 650032
Tel: 4141334 Telex: 64017 GPHKM CN
Fax: 4141087
GM: An Rui Chuan
Opened June 1988
104 rooms Rates: Standard US$30
Located 10 km from airport, 6 km fro
railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, FEC ¥20
Facilities: Business centre, restaurant, bar, billiard room, dance hall, karaoke

Green Lake Hotel
翠湖賓館
6 Cuihu (Green Lake) Road South, Kunming, Yunnan 650031
Tel: 5158888 Telex: 64073 GLHTL CN
Fax: 5153286
GM: Rene Hardmeier
Opened 1965 (New Wing in 1993)
478 rooms and suites Rates: Standa
US$70-75, suite US$120-128
Located in city centre,12 km from airport, 7 km from railway static
Taxi fare to/from airport, US$18
Facilities: Restaurants, beauty salon, massage, tennis courts, business centre, swimming pool, banquet facilities, clinic, shopping arcade

King World Hotel
錦華大酒店
28 Beijing Road South, Kunming, Yunnan 650011
Tel: (0871) 3138888
Telex: 64143 KIWH CN
Fax: (0871) 3138656, 3131910
GM: Zhang Xianbing
Opened 15 February 1992
320 rooms and suites Rates: Stand
US$60-85, suite US$125-580
Located 5 km from airport, 400 m fr
railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥30
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, revolving restaurar
coffee shop, bar, business centr
shopping arcade, banquet hall,

disco, function room, massage, beauty salon, karaoke

Kunming Camellia Hotel
昆明茶花賓館
54 Dongfeng Road East, Kunming, Yunnan 650041
el: 3163000, 3162918
elex: 64135 KMCH CN
GM: Li Datong
pened February 1986
40 rooms Rates: US$23
ocated 7 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
axi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥25; railway station, Rmb ¥10
acilities: Chinese restaurant, business centre, shopping arcade, dancing room, bar

unming Hotel
昆明飯店
45 Dongfeng Road East, Kunming, Yunnan 650051
el: 3162063, 3162171
elex: 64058 KMHTL CN
ax: 3163784
M: Duan Fu Guang
pened 1958
00 rooms and suites Rates: Standard US$29/68, suite US$26-45 or 100-630
ocated 5 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
acilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet rooms, conference rooms, coffee shop, dance hall, gym, business centre, karaoke, disco, sauna, beauty salon, indoor swimming pool, shopping arcade, billiard room

ian Yun Hotel
雲賓館
3 Yuan Tong Street, Kunming, Yunnan
el: 5157330
oom rates: FEC ¥120
ocated 13 km from airport, 6 km from railway station

an Jiang Hotel
賓館
Dongfeng Road West, Kunming, Yunnan
el: 4141518
M: Liu Yong Lu
ates: FEC ¥100
ocated 15 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

an Yao Hotel
窯大酒店
ing Tong Road, Southern Railway Station, Kunming, Yunnan
el: 3135017
M: Shu Jian

rchid Hotel
花賓館
uancheng Road South, Kunming, Yunnan
el: 3135553 Fax: 3133155
M: Ma Lizhou
pened 28 January 1992
2 rooms
ocated 15 minutes from airport, 3 minutes from railway station
axi fare to/from airport, Rmb ¥15; railway station, Rmb ¥10
acilities: Restaurants, karaoke, bar, dancing hall, beauty salon

ring City Hotel
城酒樓
9 Dongfeng Road West, Kunming, Yunnan 650031
el: 23962, 24635
M: Wang Gui Zheng
rooms and 5 suites
ates: FEC ¥200
ocated 13 km from airport, 6 km from railway station

Xiyuan Hotel
西園飯店
Western suburbs of Kunming, Yunnan
Tel: 29969
10 rooms in the villa in the inner section, 20 rooms in the outer section
Located opposite to Dianchi Lake

Yunnan Hotel
雲南飯店
83 Dongfeng Road West, Kunming, Yunnan
Tel: 3132419
GM: Liu Jiaxiang
Opened 1962
382 rooms Rates: FEC ¥120
Located 15 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Yun Xin Hotel
雲新飯店
Huancheng Road South, Kunming, Yunnan
Tel: 3135351
GM: Tang Gui Rong

Dali, Yunnan

Xiaguan Hotel
下關賓館
1 Renmin Street, Xiaguan, Dali, Yunnan
Tel: 25028, 25579
GM: Zhao Taiyu
Opened September 1988
154 rooms Rates: US$15/20
Located in the city centre
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, meeting rooms, shopping arcade

Zhengzhou, Henan

Dukang Hotel
杜康大酒店
178 Tongbai Road, Zhengzhou, Henan
Tel: 776888
Room rates: FEC ¥202
Located 8 km from airport, 3.5 km from railway station

Haitian Hotel
海天大酒店
288 Chengdong Road, Zhengzhou, Henan
Tel: 559988
Room rates: FEC ¥540
Located 30 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Huanghe Hotel
黃河飯店
106 Zhongyuan Road, Zhengzhou, Henan 450052
Tel:771005 Telex: 46020
Fax:772235
261 rooms and suites
Rates: FEC ¥114
Located 7 km from airport, 2 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurant, bar, coffee shop, disco, beauty salon

International Hotel Henan
河南國際飯店
114 Jinshui Avenue, Zhengzhou, Henan 450003
Tel: 556600, 550161
Telex: 46061 HNZIN CN
Fax: (0371) 551526
GM: Zhao Zhengyi
Opened October 1981
250 rooms and suites
Rates: Standard US$48, suite US$72/130
Located 3 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, FEC ¥15
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, business centre, conference centre, clinic, shopping arcade, coffee shop, disco, gym, sauna, massage, billiard room

Regent Mansion
麗晶大廈
Jinshui Road, Zhengzhou, Henan
Tel: 356600
Room rates: FEC ¥360
Located 2 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Tianyuan Hotel
田園酒店
Yima Road, Zhengzhou, Henan
Tel: 669898
Room rates: FEC ¥220
Located 6 km from airport, 500 m from railway station

Zhengzhou Hotel
鄭州飯店
Xinglong Road, Zhengzhou, Henan 450000

Zhengzhou Asia Hotel
鄭州亞細亞大酒店
Erqi Square, Zhengzhou, Henan
Tel: 668866
Room rates: FEC ¥268
Located 3.5 km from airport, 1 km from railway station

Zhengzhou Grand Hotel
鄭州格林蘭大酒店
93 Datong Road, Zhengzhou, Henan
Tel: 668888
Room rates: FEC ¥200
Located 6 km from airport, next to the railway station

Zhongzhou Hotel
中州賓館
Jinshui Road East, Zhengzhou, Henan
Room rates: FEC ¥162
Located 3 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Luoyang, Henan

Dongfang Hotel
東方賓館
182 Jianshe Road, Luoyang, Henan 471000
Tel: 221691
Room rates: US$24
Located 20 km from airport, 8 km from railway station

Friendship Guesthouse
友誼賓館
6 Xiyuan Road, Luoyang, Henan 471003
Tel: 412780
Room rates: US$30
Located 19 km from airport, 7 km from railway station

Garden Hotel
花園大酒店
Nanchang Road, Luoyang, Henan 471000
Tel: 221681
Room rates: US$22
Located 20 km from airport, 8 km from railway station

Luokuang Hotel
洛礦賓館
Chongqing Road, Luoyang, Henan 471003
Tel: 335391
Room rates: US$22
Located 16 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Luoyang Guesthouse
洛陽市迎賓館
6 Renmin Road West, Luoyang, Henan
Tel: 335414
Room rates: US$22
Located 23 km from airport, 10 km from railway station

Mudan Hotel
牡丹大酒店
15 Zhongzhou Road West, Luoyang, Henan
Tel: 413669
Room rates: US$36
Located 17 km from airport, 6 km from railway station

Kaifeng, Henan

Dongjing Hotel
東京大飯店
14 Yingbin Road, Kaifeng, Henan 475000
Tel: 555544
Room rates: FEC ¥240
Located near the airport, 2 km from railway station

Dongyuan Hotel
東苑大酒店
Xinsong Road, Kaifeng, Henan
Room rates: FEC ¥198
Located 1 km from railway station

Kaifeng Hotel
開封賓館

64 Ziyou Road Central, Kaifeng, Henan 475000
Tel: (0378) 555589
GM: Zhang Jianhua
Opened 1953
188 rooms Rates: US$20-150
Located 60 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Facilities: Karaoke, dancing hall, coffee shop, bar

Dengfeng County, Henan

Songshan Hotel
嵩山賓館
117 Zhongyue Avenue, Dengfeng, Henan 452470
Tel: 72755, 73744
GM: Liu Junfeng
Opened 1979
64 rooms and suites Rates: US$30
Located near the airport and railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, ballroom, big and small conference rooms, bar, karaoke

Xinxiang, Henan

Friendship Hotel
友誼賓館
16 Youyi Road, Xinxiang, Henan 453003
Tel: (0373) 354941
GM: Cui Hengjiu
Opened 1978
106 rooms and suites Rates: US$35-60
Located 70 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport, US$30; railway station, US$1.6
Facilities: Chinese restaurant, business centre

Huanghe Hotel
黃河賓館
6 Rongxiao Road, Xinxiang, Henan 453003

BUSINESS TIPS

New Trade Zone Near Shanghai

The fishing town of Luchaogang outside of Shanghai's Pudong New Area will be setting up an 80-hectare special trade zone, where businesses that sell imported consumer goods will enjoy preferential tariff and tax rates. The zone will be established in two phases, the first of which will involve building a 1,700-metre-long wharf and a commercial area. The second phase will see expansion of the commercial complex and the construction of holiday villas. Luchaogang is in a convenient location, just 60 kilometres from the centre of Shanghai and 25 kilometres from the Pudong International Airport, still under construction.

National Silk Trading Market to Open

Zhejiang Province's city of Jiaxing is planning to set up a national silk trading market that will unify prices and make Chinese silk products more competitive on the international market. The new trading market will cover an area of 6.2 hectares, and when it opens in early 1994 will offer futures and on-the-spot trading. Jiaxing is located just 90 kilometres from Shanghai and is a well-known silk producing city. Officials expect that the new market will be a magnet for silk traders from all over China and will help to set stable prices for silk products. Traders will be dealing in cocoons, raw and finished silk, silk garments, spun silk fabrics and textile fibres.

Forest Cutting Rights in Guizhou Offered

In an attempt to raise funds to develop the remote forests of Guizhou Province, authorities there have decided to open up 1.5 million hectares of forests to overseas timber companies. These companies will have cutting rights in the eastern and southern parts of the province, where the forests mainly consist of Chinese fir and pine trees. One of the targeted areas will be the Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture, which has good transportation access and an abundance of fir trees. The money will be used to set up processing factories for local products and farms for raising rare wild animals.

Shenzhen Delegation to US a Success

On a recent visit to the USA, the mayor of Shenzhen announced that business people from the city's 60-member delegation had made deals with US firms worth US$700 million in investments. The funds will go towards infrastructure projects, banking, processing, high technology and trade. At present there are 201 American enterprises and joint ventures in Shenzhen, and authorities are hoping that more such businesses will set up there and invest in a wide range of enterprises.

Mudanjiang to Become Major Commercial Centre

The city of Mudanjiang in Heilongjiang Province is investing a great deal of money and effort into making the city a major commercial centre in the Northeast Asian Economic Sphere. The sphere includes Northeast China, the Korean Peninsula, and certain regions of Japan, Russia and Mongolia. Mudanjiang's location makes it convenient for travel to many places in the sphere, and plans are underway to improve rail and highway transport to the city. The municipal government has also invested US$15.5 million in extending Mudanjiang's airport, and will make further investments this year to start up flights to Russia, South Korea and Japan. Telecommunications have also been greatly improved, a new hydroelectric power station is being constructed and 60 new facilities for business and trade will be built in the near future. At the same time environmental protection is a top concern for city officials, who have implemented a number of pollution-control projects and set up seven nature reserves.

Bidding for Foreign Investment in Shenzhen

On October 11-14 Shenzhen will be holding a conference during which Chinese enterprises will be able to bid for foreign investment. There will be 240 Chinese firms competing for investment in 300 projects, in fields such as the chemical industry, light industry, machinery, energy resources, metallurgy, transport, electronics, building materials, textiles, medicine, communications and aquaculture. There are also major development projects that will be represented, such as the Three Gorges Dam Project and the Pudong New Area in Shanghai. Foreign companies from over 40 countries and regions have been invited to attend.

46 Projects Open for Investment on Hainan

Forty-six major development projects in Hainan Province have been officially targeted for foreign investment. In July authorities made public the list of projects, which included a railway, the Haikou-Yangpu Expressway, Hainan Iron and Steel Plant, Hainan National Gas Methanol Plant, Hainan Petroleum Refinery, Hainan Meridian Tyre Plant, Yalong Bay National Tourist Resort, development of Yangpu Port and construction of the Hainan International Pharmaceutical Industry City. Due to Hainan's preferential policies and market-oriented economy, it is already a very popular place for foreign investment. Officials in this special economic zone are encouraging investors from abroad to set up solely-owned firms or joint ventures, provide loans, establish shareholding companies or do compensation trade with Chinese companies.

Beijing Customs Favour Foreign Trade Firms

Beijing Customs have recently introduced a new system that gives priority to local firms engaged in foreign trade. It chose 24 firms which qualified as "Trustworthy Enterprises" and 96 plants as "Highly Reputed Enterprises". These titles mean that the companies will have priority when going through customs procedures, making customs declarations and paying tariffs. In order to qualify for these titles the companies were judged according to production practices and their past history of obeying regulations. All the enterprises chosen were either State firms or famous Sino-foreign joint ventures such as the Beijing Lido Holiday Inn Hotel, the Beijing Philips Company, the China National Aviation Technology Import and Export Corporation and the Beijing Yanshan Petrochemical Corporation.

Antique Market Open in Beijing

A new antique market has recently opened up in Beijing's eastern section at the Zhaofeng Folk Art Trading Centre. The 6,000-square-metre market consists of hundreds of booths with all kinds of antiques, painting, calligraphy, silks, carpets and other works of art on sale. The Beijing Municipal Relic Bureau will supervise the market, hold annual antique trade fairs, check to make sure that no objects under State protection are sold and ensure that objects legitimately bought encounter no difficulties at border checks.

Adventure Travel in Western Hubei

Many visitors to Hubei Province tend to go only to the most famous scenic places, such as Wuhan, Honghu Lake and the Three Gorges in Yichang. Few people realize that the western part of the province boasts beautiful mountains, primitive forests and Tujia minority villages. Besides Shennongjia there are several other areas well worth a visit, especially for those who enjoy getting off the regular tourist route.

Wudang Mountain's Tianzhu Peak

Wudang Mountain

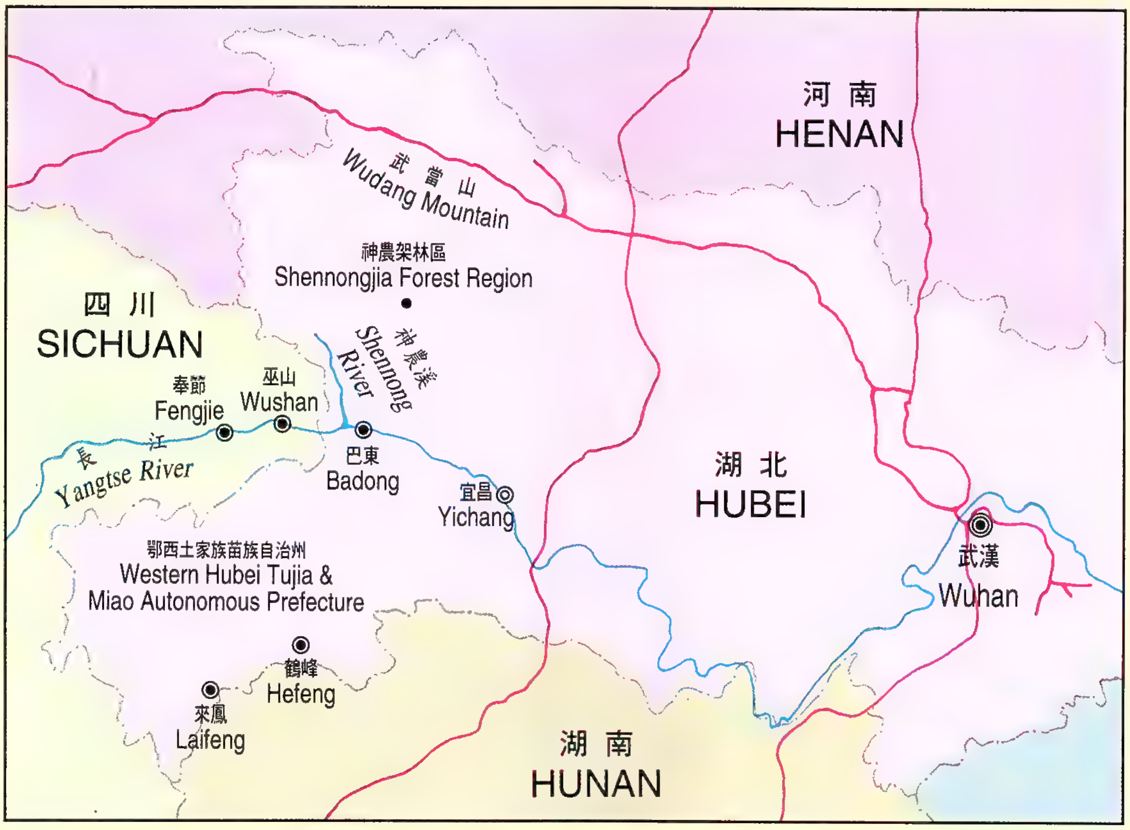
In the northern part of western Hubei, Wudang Mountain is accessible either from Shennongjia or via the city of Xiangfan. This fantastic mountain is a State protected scenic spot with an area of 400 square kilometres. It consists of 72 peaks, the highest of which is Tianzhu (Pillar of Heaven) Peak, rising to 1,612 metres above sea level.

Since the Tang Dynasty (618-907) this mountain has been a Taoist domain, and a great many fantastic temples and other religious structures have been built here. Temple construction reached a climax in the Ming Dynasty during Emperor Taizu's reign (1368-1398), making many of the buildings at least 600 years old. A devout Taoist himself, Emperor Taizu employed 300,000 workers to construct eight palaces, two temples, 36 nunneries, 72 cliff shrines, 39 bridges and 12 pavilions. These buildings were renovated in the mid-1500s and are still in good condition today.

One of the main temples here is Zixiao (Purple Cloud) Temple on Zhanqi Peak, built in 1413. Consisting of 860 rooms, this imposing palace-temple is an excellent example of Ming-dynasty architecture. Besides this temple there is another on Zhanqi Peak called Huangjing Hall built in 1416, with nine flights of steep steps leading to its entrance. On Nanyan (South Crag) Peak is Nanyan Palace, which was built in 1314 and carved from rock but in the style of a wooden building.

Taoists living on Wudang Mountain often hold grand ceremonies, and one can hear the reading of scriptures and Taoist music being played on any given day all over the mountain. In addition, Wudang Mountain is the birthplace of Wudang boxing or *taijiquan*. Therefore besides the Taoist pilgrims who come here to pray, many people also come to this mountain to study martial arts.

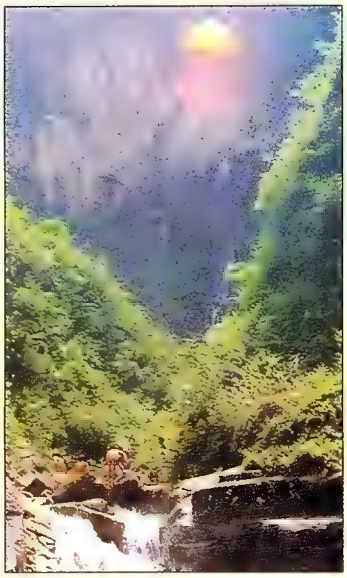
For the really adventurous (and fit) visitors, it is possible to walk up to the main summit of Zhanqi Peak, a distance of about ten kilometres from Zixiao Temple. On the summit, called Jinding, is the Jinding Inn, which is built right on the edge of a precipice. From here it is only a few minutes' walk to Huangjing Hall.



Boating Down the Shennong River

The Shennong River has the same name as the mountain where it begins, from which point it flows swiftly down to join up with the Yangtse River. Along the way it goes through beautiful gorges and ravines, past steep cliffs, mountain peaks, suspended coffins and karst caves.

To take a boat trip along this river, one must first go to the county seat of Badong, accessible from Shennongjia by bus. From there the mouth of the Shennong River at Xirangkou is only nine kilometres upstream along the Yangtse River. This is where boats and boatmen wait to take visitors upstream along the 17-kilometre stretch of the Shennong River that is most easily navigable.


The starting point of the Shennong River at dawn

The boatmen here are unique in that they traditionally do their job stark naked, because they say that clothes hinder their movements. Indeed, the boatmen spend much of the trip in the water, pulling the boat, steering it clear of rocks and navigating treacherous eddies and rapids. They sing as they work, their chants echoing throughout the rocky gorges.

In the middle reaches of the river is Yanguan (Grotto Coffin) Gorge, where the ancient Ba' people, forebears of the Tujia minority, put their dead in suspended coffins nestled in the crevices of cliffs. Just how they managed to get the coffins to their cliffside locations is still a mystery. At the end of the 17-kilometre trip the way is blocked and the boats turn around to head back. Travelling with the current the return trip is much faster, with the entire round-trip journey taking about two hours.

Visiting Tujia Minority Villages

In the very southwestern tip of Hubei are two Tujia Minority Autonomous Counties, one named Laifeng and other Hefeng. About three million Tujia people live in this region, which can be reached by bus from the city of Enshi. The Tujia are descendants of the Ba people, whose suspended coffins can be seen along the Shennong River.

One of the interesting features of Tujia villages is their architecture, the most typical being wooden stilt-houses. Like in northern Thailand and Yunnan's Xishuangbanna area, the ground under the house is used for keeping domestic animals. In Laifeng County there is a particularly attractive ancestral temple which has carved and painted beams and a decorated ceiling, a good example of Tujia building skills.

The Tujia people are also known for a special dance they do called *sheba*, or the Arm Swinging Dance. It is performed during all festivals including their own unique Ox King Festival. Held on the eighth day of the fourth lunar month, it is a festival during which villagers honour their cows and oxen for the important work they do.

Another characteristic of the Tujia people is their "oiled tea", made by frying tea leaves and millet grain together with oil and then adding boiling water. Like other minorities, the Tujia people also have their own style of dress and make a wide variety of ethnic arts and crafts.

Two Mountain Tours in Henan Province

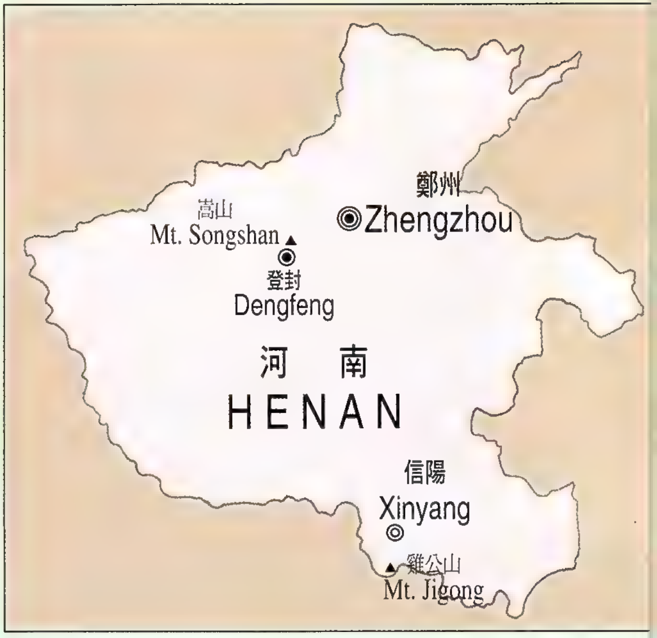
Songshan Mountain

Most people have heard of Shaolin Monastery, but few reali
that it is not only easy to reach but is also situated on sacre
Songshan Mountain, a place of ancient pagodas and many oth
cultural attractions. One could easily spend several days tourir
this beautiful mountain and seeing the many sights arour
Dengfeng, the town which serves as the base for excursions to tl
Shaolin Monastery and other places of interest.

Dengfeng is located just 82 kilometres from the capital city
Zhengzhou and buses run between the two places several times
day. There is lodging available in Dengfeng, just a short bus ri
from the Shaolin Monastery. The monastery was built in 495 ar
became famous as a school for Shaolin kung fu after the Indi
monk Bodhidharma arrived at the temple to teach the mon
meditation and martial arts. The well-known martial art of Shaol
kung fu was thus born and developed here, therefore the area
steeped in history.

The temple complex is comprised of several buildings, and
where all religious activities are held. Called Changzhuyuan, t
complex covers an area of four hectares. Inside the complex a
several halls, such as the Martial Arts Sculpture Hall, Tianwa
(Heavenly King) Hall, Thousand Buddha Hall and Baiyi (Whi
Robe) Hall. Within these buildings one can see mural art, scul
tures, stone tablets and other ancient and modern works of a
Near the monastery is also a fantastic Stupa Forest, where 230
Shaolin's abbots and senior monks have been buried over t
centuries, each gravesite having its own unique stupa built over
The oldest stupa dates to the year 791 and the most recent w
built in 1808.

Bodhidharma's memory has lived on in this mountain, and o
can even visit the cave where he lived and meditated for ni



Teacher and pupil practise kung fu stances together.

years. This is located on Wuru Peak, where a building called Chuzu Hall was built in memory of Bodhidharma. A path behind Chuzu Hall leads up to Bodhidharma's Cave. It takes about two hours to visit these two sites from Shaolin Monastery.

Around Dengfeng are a host of other tourist attractions, such as Songyue Pagoda, Fawang Temple, the Shaoshi Stone Pillars and Songyang Academy. One of the 70 peaks that comprise Songshan Mountain is called Taishi Peak, at the foot of which are a number of other interesting sights. Here one will find Zhongyue Temple, the largest and most important Taoist temple in the mountain. From this temple one can climb up to Huanggai Peak, or go in the opposite direction and see the Taishi Stone Pillars or Gaocheng, near which is a site of archaeological relics from the Xia Dynasty (c. 21st-16th century B.C.). Located nearby in the old town of Dengfeng is the oldest observatory in China called Guanxing (Star-Watching) Terrace, built 700 years ago by a famous Yuan-dynasty astronomer.

Mount Jigong

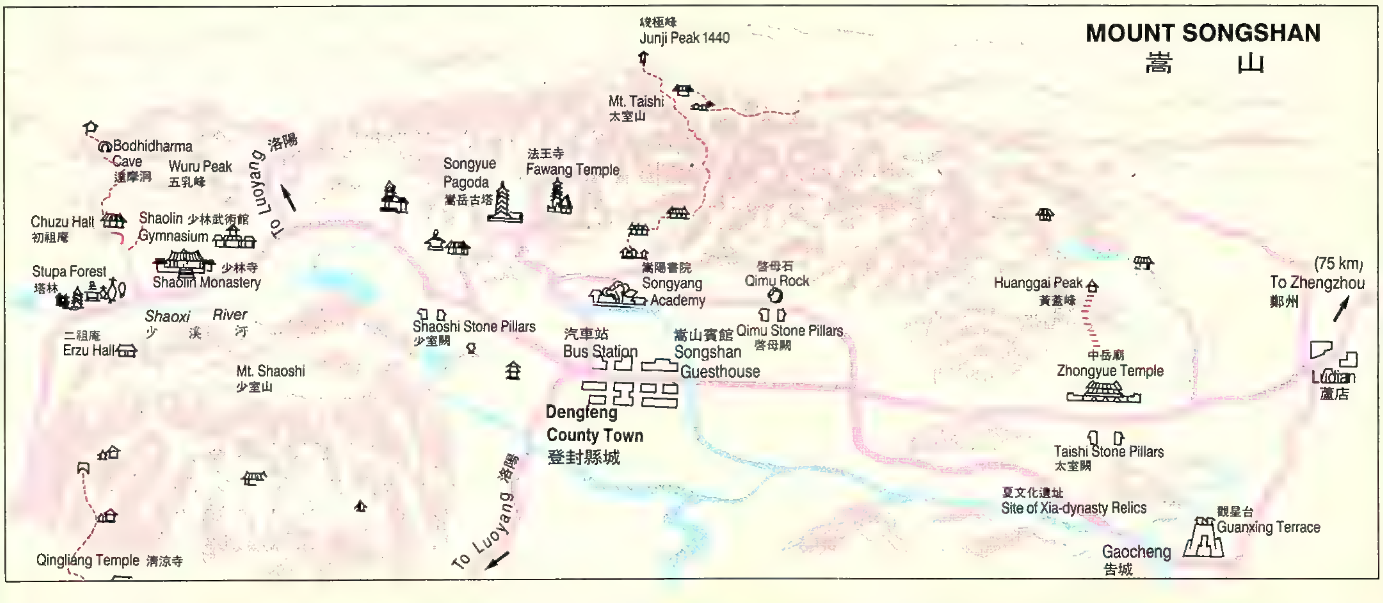
Located in the far south of Henan Province is Mount Jigong, a 35-kilometre bus ride from the city of Xinyang. Around Mount Jigong are a number of scenic spots, and the mountain itself has been listed as one of China's State-level nature reserves. Tourist facilities are well developed here, with nearly 100 hotels and villas dotted over the mountain and a cable car that takes visitors to the summit.

The best way to reach Xinyang is to take a train from Wuhan in Hubei Province. It is possible to take a train all the way to the foot of the mountain, however not all trains stop here. From Xinyang there are regular buses to Mount Jigong with the trip taking about one hour. On the flat mountaintop there are hotels, restaurants, shops and other facilities.

Mount Jigong (which means Rooster) actually does look like a crowing rooster when viewed from the air. The mountain is covered in thick bamboo and rare flowers, and has a pleasant summertime temperature of around 23°C, making it an ideal resort area. Nearby is Tangquan Pool, a hot spring whose water has therapeutic effects against skin diseases and rheumatism. The water remains at a constant 58°C and contains various elements like calcium, sodium, flouride, chlorine, sulphur and phosphorus. Taking advantage of these natural spring waters, over 100 sanatoriums have been built where one can stay overnight and soak in the hot springs.

There is also a Buddhist temple here, one of the few in China where nuns and monks practise together. Called Lingshan Temple and located 69 kilometres away from Mount Jigong, it was first built in 713 during the Tang Dynasty. Every year the temple holds a fair that attracts Buddhist pilgrims from all over the region.

The other major attraction near Xinyang is Nanwan Reservoir built in 1955, located just five kilometres from the city. Its mirror-like surface is dotted with over 100 small islands, many of which can be visited by boat. There is an Isle of Birds, which is home to over 100,000 egrets and cormorants, Snake Isle, islands with monkeys living on them, an isle with a wide variety of flowers and many others. In the future authorities will be developing this area into a sanatorium resort centre with complete tourist facilities.


MOUNT SONGSHAN
嵩 山
峻極峰
Junji Peak 1440
Mt. Taishi
太室山
Bodhidharma Cave
達摩洞
Wuru Peak
五乳峰
To Luoyang 洛陽
Chuzu Hall
初祖庵
Shaolin Gymnasium 少林武術館
Songyue Pagoda
嵩岳古塔
法王寺
Fawang Temple
Stupa Forest
塔林
少林寺
Shaolin Monastery
嵩陽書院
Songyang Academy
啓母石
Qimu Rock
Shaoxi River
少 溪 河
二祖庵
Erzu Hall
Shaoshi Stone Pillars
少室闕
汽車站
Bus Station
嵩山賓館
Songshan Guesthouse
Qimu Stone Pillars
啓母闕
Mt. Shaoshi
少室山
Dengfeng County Town
登封縣城
To Luoyang 洛陽
Qingliang Temple 清涼寺
Huanggai Peak
黃蓋峰
中岳廟
Zhongyue Temple
(75 km)
To Zhengzhou
鄭州
Ludian
蘆店
Taishi Stone Pillars
太室闕
夏文化遺址
Site of Xia-dynasty Relics
觀星台
Guanxing Terrace
Gaocheng
告城

Ethnic Minorities in Yunnan Province

Yunnan Province has one of the highest numbers of minority peoples of any province in China. In fact minorities make up one-third of Yunnan's total population of 35,830,000, and on maps of Yunnan it seems that everywhere one looks there are minority autonomous regions. Below are brief introductions to the major ethnic groups in the province except for the Naxi, who are featured in one of this issue's main articles. The groups are arranged according to population, beginning with the largest.

The Yi 彝族

The Yi people are the largest minority group in southwestern China, with a population of 6.57 million. In Yunnan they are scattered throughout the province, but can be found in large numbers around the city of Chuxiong near Kunming and the Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture. The Yi people have a history of about 2,000 years and have a highly-developed culture.

The costumes of the Yi people vary greatly from region to region, and in fact the Yi have over 100 different kinds of outfits. Generally the women wear a coat and long pleated skirt, along with an embroidered square kerchief on the head. The men wear embroidered dark coats and pleated trousers. All males also grow a long tuft of hair called a "Heavenly Bodhisattva", and believe that this is where the soul resides, therefore it cannot be touched. It is covered with a dark-coloured ten-metre-long turban which is fastened with a cone-shaped pin. Both men and women also wear a coarse wool blanket called a *charva* which can be used as a cape or a blanket.

The biggest festival for the Yi people occurs around the 24th day of the sixth lunar month and is called the Torch Festival. As the name implies, during this time everyone carries a torch and sings and dances together. The men have wrestling and horse-racing contests, plus engage in bull and goat fighting, while the women sing, dance and play music.

The Bai 白族

The word "bai" means white, which is one of the main colours of clothing worn by these people. Bai males wear white jackets that button down the front and a black sleeveless vest on top. The women wear white blouses and black velvet vests, with short aprons and embroidered shoes.

With a population of 1.59 million, most of the Bai live in the Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture. The well-known Three Pagodas in Dali were built by the Bai people, who are excellent carpenters. Their houses differ according to the climate and elevation, but all have curved tiled roofs and screen walls.

The most important holiday for the Bai is their Third Month Fair, celebrated from the 15th to the 20th day of the third lunar month at the foot of Diancang Mountain near Dali. Originally a religious event, it is now more closely related to trade, with people of many different ethnic groups attending to buy and sell various products. There is also entertainment such as horse-racing, dancing, ball games and other types of performances.

The Hani 哈尼族

The Hani people (population 1.25 million) mostly live along the Lancang River and are concentrated in the Mojiang Hani Autonomous County and the Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture. The Hani have been building and cultivating terraced fields throughout their history, and in the Honghe River valley one can see tiers and tiers of paddy fields everywhere.

Like other minorities, the Hani have their own unique courting rituals. At the age when young people are allowed to start dating, boys replace their hats with a piece of bound cloth and paint their teeth red. This indicates that they are looking for a mate. The girls also paint their teeth red and begin wearing an apron with silver ornaments. The Hani are traditionally very hospitable people. Guests to a Hani household are always offered wine and tea, which if drunk will ensure that the guest is received enthusiastically. Hani people will never refuse a guest who requests to stay overnight, and are well-mannered at all times. The Hani celebrate two separate New Years, one during the tenth lunar month and the other in the sixth month. The first is called *misezha*, lasts about seven days and is the official start of their new year. The other is called *kuzhazha* and lasts three to six days. Both festivals involve much merry-making, but the former is a more elaborate occasion.

The Dai 傣族

One of the most popular tourist areas in Yunnan in recent years has been Xishuangbanna, in the far southern corner of the province. China's 1.02 million Dai people are concentrated mainly here, in the Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture and in Gengma and Menglian counties. As these regions are near the borders of Burma, Laos and Vietnam, their customs are somewhat related to those found in the northern parts of Southeast

Asia, such as their habit of building houses on stilts. Designed to suit the hot and humid climate, people live inside the house while their animals live below it. Dai women's traditional dress is a sarong made of patterned cloth which they weave themselves, but details vary according to the region. Dai women can be easily distinguished by their hair, which is usually coiled on top of the head and kept in place with a crescent-shaped comb. Another feature common to Dai women is the handmade silver belt they all wear around the waist. Married women additionally wear a set of keys dangling from their belt to announce their marital status.

One of the best times to visit this area is around April in the middle of the third lunar month during the Dai New Year, when the Water Splashing Festival takes place. Besides throwing water on each other, young women might be seen throwing embroidered balls at men, a kind of courtship ritual. Young Dai men and women are quite free to date before marriage and the parents never interfere in their affairs. Upon marriage the men go to live with the wife's family, rather than the other way round as with the Han Chinese.

The Lisu 傈僳族

The Lisu live mainly in the Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture and Tengchong County near the city of Baoshan in western Yunnan. Lisu people have been living in the remote canyon regions along the Nujiang River for generations. Most of them are farmers, but those living in mountainous areas engage in hunting as well. There are now 574,000 Lisu people in China.

Lisu women wear colourful long skirts and a shirt that buttons down the right, along with ornaments made of agate, seashells and silver. They sport elaborate head-dresses with lace trim. Men dress in white or blue jackets and carry a sword on the left and a leather quiver on the right. Both men and women always wear a tobacco pouch at their waist, which is a kind of status symbol as well as having its obvious practical use. However the Lisu do not smoke tobacco, they chew it together with betel nut powder or chestnut leaves.

Like many other nationalities, the Lisu have their own brand of homemade alcohol, made out of corn and sorghum. Called *shuijiu* (water wine), all visitors to Lisu villages are treated to this drink. The major holiday of the Lisu people is New Year, held every year from the first to the third day of the first lunar month. Festivities include crossbow and catapult contests for the men, and playing on a local version of the swing for the girls.

The Va 佤族

The Va, one of China's oldest minority groups, live exclusively in southern Yunnan Province: in the Ximeng Va Autonomous County, the Cangyuan Va Autonomous County, the Menglian Dai, Lahu and Va Autonomous County and the Gengma Dai and Va Autonomous County. The present-day population of Va people is 351,000.

Va men wear black or red cloths around their heads, short jackets and loose trousers, while the women wear short jackets and striped aprons. The women often adorn themselves with silver jewellery and wear rattan rings around the waist and ankles. All Va people drink locally made millet wine, no matter what age, and all guests are offered the wine as well, which is drunk from a bamboo tube or mug. They also enjoy chewing a kind of betel nut, and most people carry small boxes with them containing the nut.

The Va have an interesting courting game whereby young people get together and each girl combs the hair of the boy she likes. They sing as they comb, and try to get to know one another. If they like each other the man spends the night at the girls's house, but sex is strictly forbidden until marriage.

Va girls all learn how to weave at an early age, and a good example of their skill is the *tongpa* or woven satchel that nearly every Va person carries. If a woman is secretly in love with a man she will give him her favourite *tongpa* as a token of her love. Many of the Va's ancient customs have died out as their animist beliefs often resulted in violence, such as bull-killing and animal sacrifices.

The Jingpo 景頗族

The majority of China's 119,000 Jingpo people live in the Dehong Dai and Jingpo Autonomous Prefecture, and always inhabit high mountain regions with evelations of about 1,000 metres. Women traditionally wear a short jacket, a sarong, a great deal of silver jewellery and a red cap. Men wear a black jacket, a white headcloth and always carry a sword. In the past these swords were used for cutting trees and for protection against wild animals, but today are more for decoration.

The houses of the Jingpo people are usually made of thatched bamboo which must be rebuilt every few years. At that time all the villagers come to help in what is a kind of house-building party. Nowadays some Jingpo people have abandoned the custom of a bamboo house and build theirs with bricks and tile roofs. The major festival of the Jingpo people is called *Munao*, which means mass dance and unity. This takes place on the 15th day of the first lunar month and involves drums, gongs, performances and traditional dances.

Visitors to Jingpo houses must be careful about their behaviour, as there are several taboos. For example, females must not sit with their legs crossed or put their hands under their chin, as this is done only at funerals. If a male visitor is offered a pipe, cigarette or anything to eat or drink it is considered rude to refuse. At meals broad leaves are used instead of plates, and guests must be careful not to turn these upside down, as this is considered unfriendly. Guests should also not make funny faces or whistle indoors, must not touch an elder's turban and must also not use another man's sword.

The Jinuo 基諾族

The Jinuo live in one compact community of 18,000 people in Jinghong, located in Xishuangbanna in southern Yunnan. It is said that their ancestors were officers under the Three Kingdoms (220-280) strategist Zhuge Liang. During a campaign led by him to Xishuangbanna, one part of the army got separated from the rest, and these people became the first *Jinuo.*

The Jinuo developed their own spoken language over the centuries, but never a written form. They are mainly farmers and grow rice, cotton and Pu'er tea. Their lives are closely connected to the bamboo plant, as they use bamboo wood to construct houses, furniture, utensils, household objects and just about everything else. The Jinuo have distinctive customs, and can be immediately recognized by the hats the women wear: hood-shaped and pointed, with a flap that covers the shoulders. Both men and women have their ears pierced, chew betel nuts and sport tattoos. Young people are free to date and sleep together, but cannot get married until they have a child.

Yunnan's Cities and Counties Open to Foreign Tourists

Baoshan	保山市
Binchuan C	賓川縣
Cangyuan Va AC	滄源佤族自治縣
Chengjiang C	澄江縣
Chuxiong	楚雄市
Daguan C	大關縣
Dali	大理市
Dayao C	大姚縣
Dongchuan	東川市
Eshan Yi AC	峨山彝族自治縣
Eryuan C	洱源縣
Fengqing C	鳳慶縣
Funing C	富寧縣
Fuyuan C	富源縣
Gejiu	箇舊市
Gengma Dai & Va AC	耿馬傣族佤族自治縣
Guangnan C	廣南縣
Hekou Yao AC	河口瑤族自治縣
Honghe C	紅河縣
Huaning C	華寧縣
Huaping C	華坪縣
Jianchuan C	劍川縣
Jianshui C	建水縣
Jiangcheng Hani & Yi AC	江城哈尼族彝族自治縣
Jiangchuan C	江川縣
Jinping Miao, Yao & Dai AC	金平苗族瑤族傣族自治縣
Jinggu Dai & Yi AC	景谷傣族彝族自治縣
Jinghong C	景洪縣
Kaiyuan	開遠市
Kunming	昆明市
Lancang Lahu AC	瀾滄拉祜族自治縣
Lijiang Naxi AC	麗江納西族自治縣
Lincang C	臨滄縣
Longling C	龍陵縣
Lufeng C	祿豐縣
Luliang C	陸良縣
Lushui C	瀘水縣
Luxi C (Mangshi)	潞西縣（芒市）
Luxi C (Zhongshu)	瀘西縣（中樞）
Luoping C	羅平縣
Luchun C	綠春縣
Maguan C	馬關縣
Malipo C	麻栗坡縣
Menghai C	勐海縣
Menglian Dai, Lahu & Va AC	孟連傣族拉祜族佤族自治縣
Mengzi C	蒙自縣
Mile C	彌勒縣
Mojiang Hani AC	墨江哈尼族自治縣
Nanhua C	南華縣
Ninglang Yi AC	寧蒗彝族自治縣
Pingbian Miao AC	屏邊苗族自治縣
Pu'er Hani & Yi AC	普洱哈尼族彝族自治縣
Qiubei C	邱北縣
Qujing	曲靖市
Ruili C	瑞麗縣
Shiping C	石屏縣
Shizong C	師宗縣
Shuangjiang Lahu, Va, Blang & Dai AC	雙江拉祜族佤族布朗族傣族自治縣
Shuifu C	水富縣
Simao C	思茅縣
Suijiang C	綏江縣
Tengchong C	騰衝縣
Tonghai C	通海縣
Wanding	畹町市
Weishan Yi & Hui AC	巍山彝族回族自治縣
Weixin C	威信縣
Wenshan C	文山縣
Wuding C	武定縣
Xichou C	西疇縣
Ximeng Va AC	西盟佤族自治縣
Xinping Yi & Dai AC	新平彝族傣族自治縣
Xuanwei C	宣威縣
Yanjin C	鹽津縣
Yanshan C	硯山縣
Yao'an C	姚安縣
Yiliang C	彝良縣
Yimen C	易門縣
Yongren C	永仁縣
Yongsheng C	永勝縣
Yuanjiang Hani, Yi & Dai AC	元江哈尼族彝族傣族自治縣
Yuanmou C	元謀縣
Yuanyang C	元陽縣
Yunxian C	雲縣
Yuxi	玉溪市
Zhaotong	昭通市
Zhenxiong C	鎮雄縣
Zhongdian C	中甸縣

Notes:

C — County

AC — Autonomous County

Average Climatic Conditions in Henan, Yunnan and Hubei Provinces

			Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Henan	Luoyang	Temperature (°C)	0.3	2.7	8.6	15.4	21.3	26.6	27.5	26.2	21.2	15.3	8.3	2.3
		Rainfall (mm)	6.9	12.5	25.4	45.1	47.0	66.3	141.5	95.8	74.7	46.0	30.6	9.3
	Kaifeng	Temperature (°C)	-0.5	1.8	7.5	14.6	20.7	25.9	27.1	25.9	21.0	15.0	7.7	1.4
		Rainfall (mm)	6.4	10.4	24.2	43.6	43.4	81.3	166.6	118.9	64.3	39.4	26.4	9.4
	Zhengzhou	Temperature (°C)	-0.3	2.2	7.8	14.9	21.0	26.2	27.3	25.8	20.9	15.1	7.8	1.7
		Rainfall (mm)	8.6	12.5	26.8	53.7	42.9	68.0	154.4	119.3	71.0	43.8	30.5	9.5
Hubei	Wuhan	Temperature (°C)	8.0	9.0	10.0	14.0	20.0	25.0	30.0	30.0	25.0	20.0	12.0	10.0
		Rainfall (mm)	30.0	50.0	100.0	150.0	160.0	200.0	130.0	100.0	90.0	60.0	50.0	40.0
	Badong	Temperature (°C)	5.8	7.7	12.3	17.7	21.4	25.4	28.3	28.1	23.6	18.3	12.6	7.8
		Rainfall (mm)	13.2	22.6	57.3	95.4	157.7	166.1	179.4	143.3	138.9	81.0	43.1	19.6
Yunnan	Zhongdian	Temperature (°C)	-3.8	-1.6	1.7	5.2	9.5	12.6	13.2	12.5	11.1	6.5	0.8	-2.9
		Rainfall (mm)	5.4	14.5	19.2	28.1	26.8	86.0	157.5	155.2	72.4	42.4	8.3	4.0
	Bijiang	Temperature (°C)	7.6	8.2	10.8	13.0	16.5	18.6	19.3	19.2	18.2	15.2	11.0	8.3
		Rainfall (mm)	36.6	99.8	138.3	140.3	84.3	140.5	148.2	138.7	86.7	80.6	37.3	16.7
	Gongshan	Temperature (°C)	7.7	8.4	11.4	13.9	17.9	20.3	21.4	21.3	19.8	15.9	11.2	8.1
		Rainfall (mm)	54.1	145.8	171.5	201.0	129.7	238.2	203.4	157.9	141.1	117.4	52.3	27.1
	Dali	Temperature (°C)	8.7	10.6	13.4	16.2	18.9	19.9	20.1	19.3	18.1	15.3	11.6	8.8
		Rainfall (mm)	16.8	25.5	32.1	20.3	66.7	187.9	179.3	229.0	157.4	116.9	34.6	12.4

Hubei's Cities and Counties Open to Foreign Tourists

Anlu	安陸市
Badong C	巴東縣
Changyang Tujia AC	長陽土家族自治縣
Chongyang C	崇陽縣
Dangyang	當陽市
Danjiangkou	丹江口市
Dawu C	大悟縣
Enshi	恩施市
Ezhou	鄂州市
Gong'an C	公安縣
Guangshui	廣水市
Hanchuan C	漢川縣
Hefeng C	鶴峰縣
Hong'an C	紅安縣
Honghu	洪湖市
Huangzhou	黃州市
Huangmei C	黃梅縣
Huangshi	黃石市
Jiangling C	江陵縣
Jianli C	監利縣
Jianshi C	建始縣
Jiayu C	嘉魚縣
Jingmen	荊門市
Jingshan C	京山縣
Laifeng C	來鳳縣
Lichuan	利川市
Luotian C	羅田縣
Puqi	蒲圻市
Qianjiang	潛江市
Qichun C	蕲春縣
Shashi	沙市市
Shishou	石首市
Shiyan	十堰市
Songzi C	松滋縣
Tianmen	天門市
Tongcheng C	通城縣
Tongshan C	通山縣
Wufeng Tujia AC	五峰土家族自治縣
Wuhan	武漢市
Wuxue	武穴市
Xianfeng C	咸豐縣
Xiangfan	襄樊市
Xianning	咸寧市
Xiantao	仙桃市
Xiaogan	孝感市
Xingshan C	興山縣
Xishui C	浠水縣
Yangxin C	陽新縣
Yichang	宜昌市
Yichang C	宜昌縣
Yingcheng	應城市
Yingshan C	英山縣
Yunmeng C	雲夢縣
Yunxian C	鄖縣
Zhicheng	枝城市
Zhijiang C	枝江縣
Zhongxiang C	鐘祥縣
Zigui C	秭歸縣

Notes:
C — County
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Henan's Cities and Counties Open to Foreign Tourists

Anyang	安陽市
Biyang C	泌陽縣
Dancheng C	鄲城縣
Dengzhou	鄧州市
Fangcheng C	方城縣
Fugou C	扶溝縣
Guangshan C	光山縣
Gushi C	固始縣
Hebi	鶴壁市
Huaibin C	淮濱縣
Huaiyang C	淮陽縣
Huangchuan C	潢川縣
Jiaozuo	焦作市
Kaifeng	開封市
Luohe	漯河市
Luoshan C	羅山縣
Luoyang	洛陽市
Luyi C	鹿邑縣
Minquan C	民權縣
Nanyang	南陽市
Nanyang C	南陽縣
Ningling C	寧陵縣
Pingdingshan	平頂山市
Pingyu C	平輿縣
Puyang	濮陽市
Runan C	汝南縣
Sanmenxia	三門峽市
Shangcai C	上蔡縣
Shangcheng C	商城縣
Shangqiu	商丘市
Shangqiu C	商丘縣
Shangshui C	商水縣
Sheqi C	社旗縣
Shenqiu C	沈丘縣
Suiping C	遂平縣
Suixian C	睢縣
Taikang C	太康縣
Tanghe C	唐河縣
Tongbai C	桐柏縣
Wenxian C	溫縣
Xiangcheng C	項城縣
Xiayi C	夏邑縣
Xihua C	西華縣
Xincai C	新蔡縣
Xinxian C	新縣
Xinxiang	新鄉市
Xinyang	信陽市
Xinye C	新野縣
Xiping C	西平縣
Xixian C	息縣
Xuchang	許昌市
Yongcheng C	永城縣
Yucheng C	虞城縣
Zhecheng C	柘城縣
Zhengyang C	正陽縣
Zhengzhou	鄭州市
Zhenping C	鎮平縣
Zhoukou	周口市
Zhumadian	駐馬店市

Note: C — County

Train Schedules
Beijing — Zhengzhou — Wuchang — Guangzhou

257 F.T.	253 F.T.	251 F.T.	245 F.T.	243 F.T	37 Exp.	29 Exp.	15 Exp.	1 Exp.	Train No. Station	2 Exp.	16 Exp.	30 Exp.	38 Exp.	244 F.T.	246 F.T.	252 F.T.	254 F.T.	258 F.T.
		23:55	12:59		18:14	22:30	00:30	09:01	**Beijing**	20:22	04:30	06:00	13:21		04:00	06:45		
	11:44	—	—		—	—	—	—	**Beijing South**	—	—	—	—		—	—	03:20	
	16:04	04:54	17:41		21:54	01:57	03:57	12:28	**Shijiazhuang**	17:02	01:14	02:44	09:48		00:04	02:09	23:18	
	19:23	08:00	21:01		00:41	—	—	15:27	**Anyang**	14:02	—	—	07:00		20:45	22:50	19:48	
20:54	22:04	10:49	23:59	14:35	03:14	06:56	08:56	18:11	**Zhengzhou**	11:17	20:10	21:40	04:28	05:17	17:58	19:34	16:40	08:38
02:08			04:32	19:09	07:16	10:53	12:53	22:13	**Xinyang**	07:09	16:10	17:40	00:24	00:48	13:03			03:38
05:43			07:53	22:47	10:31	—	—	01:26	**Hankou**	03:48	—	—	21:03	20:48	09:32			23:56
06:24			08:16	23:22	10:54	14:21	16:21	02:01	**Wuchang**	03:09	12:29	13:59	20:23	19:51	08:53			23:12
10:30				03:14			19:33	05:15	**Yueyang**	23:58	09:19			16:03				19:29
12:50				05:45		19:27	21:41	07:13	**Changsha**	21:50	07:15	08:59		13:45				17:05
				09:00		22:21	00:35		**Hengyang**		04:19	06:03		10:20				
				14:36		03:20	05:36		**Shaoguan**		23:21	01:07		04:40				
				18:15		06:29	08:45		**Guangzhou**		20:00	21:46		00:43				

Exp. — Express
F.T. — Fast through passenger train

Train Schedules
Kunming — Guilin — Guangzhou

166/163 F.T.	Train No. Station	164/165 F.T.
11:50	**Kunming**	19:36
17:06	**Xuanwei**	14:33
20:14	**Lanba**	11:17
01:00	**Guiyang**	06:24
06:39	**Dushan**	00:16
16:16	**Liuzhou**	14:58
19:41	**Guilin**	11:22
20:50	**Guilin North**	11:03
21:57	**Quanzhou**	09:00
00:22	**Lengshuitan**	07:00
03:46	**Hengyang**	03:56
06:21	**Chenzhou**	01:15
07:36	**Pingshi**	23:56
09:16	**Shaoguan**	22:22
10:44	**Yingde**	20:46
13:20	**Guangzhou**	18:30

Flights to and from Kunming, Yunnan

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Guilin — Kunming	1 6 2 7 4 5	20:15 19:15 07:50	21:35 20:35 09:20	3Q4596 3Q4350 CZ3407
Kunming — Guilin	1 6 2 7 4 5	13:30 17:20 10:10	14:35 18:25 11:50	3Q4595 3Q4349 CZ3408
Shantou — Kunming	3 1 2 3 5 6	13:20 10:20	15:50 12:30	CZ391 3Q4392
Kunming — Shantou	4 1 2 3 5 6	13:00 07:10	15:30 09:05	CZ392 3Q4391
Wuhan — Kunming	3 5 7	07:15	09:25	CZ3443
Kunming — Wuhan	3 5 7	10:20	12:15	CZ3444
Zhengzhou — Kunming	5	15:25	17:45	3Q4682
Kunming — Zhengzhou	5	07:15	09:25	3Q4681
Shanghai — Kunming	4 7 1 3 5 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	19:20 08:05 10:40	22:15 11:20 13:40	3Q4546 SF451 3Q4542
Kunming — Shanghai	4 7 1 3 5 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:55 12:10 07:25	18:30 14:40 09:55	3Q4545 SF452 3Q4541
Shenzhen — Kunming	4 5	19:40	21:30	3Q4394
Kunming — Shenzhen	2 7 3 6 3 6 4 5	16:45 14:40 19:40 17:10	18:25 16:30 21:40 18:50	3Q4395 SZ4373 CZ3460 3Q4393
Hong Kong — Kunming	1 2 3 5 6 7	13:25	15:25	CZ342
Kunming — Hong Kong	1 2 3 5 6 7	10:35	12:30	CZ341
Singapore — Kunming	3 6	12:40	16:20	3Q464
Kunming — Singapore	3 6	07:50	11:40	3Q463
Vientiane — Kunming	6	13:35	15:55	CZ394
Kunming — Vientiane	6	12:05	12:35	CZ393

(Valid Autumn 1993)

Flight to and from Luoyang, Henan

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing — Luoyang	1 4	14:40	16:15	CA1357
Luoyang — Beijing	1 4	17:05	18:50	CA1358
Guangzhou — Luoyang	2 3 6 7	09:40	11:40	CZ3395
Luoyang — Guangzhou	2 3 6 7	12:20	14:30	CZ3396
Shenzhen — Luoyang	1 4	11:20	13:30	CZ3985
Luoyang — Shenzhen	1 4	20:30	22:40	CZ3986
Xiamen — Luoyang	7	15:55	18:00	MF8329
Luoyang — Xiamen	7	18:50	20:55	MF8330
Hong Kong — Luoyang (Charter)	1 4	17:40	19:50	CZ3072
Luoyang — Hong Kong (Charter)	1 4	14:30	16:40	CZ3071

(Valid Autumn 1993)

Flights to and from Zhengzhou, Henan

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing — Zhengzhou	4	14:45	15:50	CZ3180
Zhengzhou — Beijing	4	12:40	13:50	CZ3179
Fuzhou — Zhengzhou	3 1 4	12:20 17:00	14:30 18:40	GP7531 MF8327
Zhengzhou — Fuzhou	3 1 4	15:20 14:40	17:30 16:20	GP7532 MF8328
Guangzhou — Zhengzhou	4 1 3 2 6 2 3 5 7	09:40 13:05 14:10 11:45	11:40 14:55 16:00 13:40	CZ3977 CZ3391 CZ3393 CZ3397
Zhengzhou — Guangzhou	4 1 3 2 6 2 3 5 7	16:30 15:40 16:50 20:25	18:30 17:30 18:40 22:25	CZ3978 CZ3392 CZ3394 CZ3398
Haikou — Zhengzhou	2 4	06:50	09:20	CZ3945
Zhengzhou — Haikou	2 4	10:05	12:45	CZ3946
Kunming — Zhengzhou	5	07:15	09:25	3Q4681
Zhengzhou — Kunming	5	15:25	17:45	3Q4682
Shenyang — Zhengzhou	5	12:45	14:35	3Q4682
Zhengzhou — Shenyang	5	10:15	11:55	3Q4681
Shenzhen — Zhengzhou	2 7	07:10	09:05	CZ3965
Zhengzhou — Shenzhen	2 7	09:55	11:50	CZ3966
Xiamen — Zhengzhou	3 1 4 2 5	15:10 11:50 12:25	17:10 13:50 14:20	MF8331 MF8325 MF8311
Zhengzhou — Xiamen	3 1 4 2 5	17:50 19:20 15:00	19:50 21:20 17:00	MF8332 MF8326 MF8312
Hong Kong — Zhengzhou (Charter)	2 3 5 7	17:50	19:50	CZ3074
Zhengzhou — Hong Kong (Charter)	2 3 5 7	14:50	16:50	CZ3073

(Valid Autumn 1993)

Flights to and from Wuhan, Hubei

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing — Wuhan	6 1 4 6 7 1 2 5 1 3 6	20:40 08:25 08:25 09:30 20:55	22:30 10:20 10:20 11:25 22:35	CZ3136 CA1333 CA1333 CZ3118 CZ3138
Wuhan — Beijing	5 1 4 6 7 1 3 6 1 2 4 5	18:40 11:00 11:00 18:15 06:55	20:30 12:55 12:55 20:10 08:45	CZ3135 CA1334 CA1334 CZ3137 CZ3117
Fuzhou — Wuhan	2 6 5 7	12:55 09:30	14:35 10:40	WH2518 CZ3546
Wuhan — Fuzhou	2 6 5 7	10:35 07:30	12:05 08:40	WH2517 CZ3545
Hangzhou — Wuhan	3	16:10	17:20	CZ3542
Wuhan — Hangzhou	3	14:10	15:20	CZ3541
Lanzhou — Wuhan	2 6	07:35	09:45	WH2517
Wuhan — Lanzhou	2 6	15:25	17:55	WH2518
Shanghai — Wuhan	1 2 5 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	14:35 20:00 07:20	15:50 21:15 08:50	CZ3580 CZ3544 MU5323
Wuhan — Shanghai	1 2 5 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	12:35 18:00 09:40	13:45 19:10 11:00	CZ3579 CZ3543 MU5324
Xiamen — Wuhan	1 3 5 7	20:30	22:00	CZ3842
Wuhan — Xiamen	1 3 5 7	18:10	19:40	CZ3841
Guangzhou — Wuhan	3 7 1 5 6 7 2 3 6 7 1 3 4 5 6 7	13:55 15:20 15:40 20:50	15:45 16:50 17:10 22:20	CA1384 CZ3342 CZ3346 CZ3344
Wuhan — Guangzhou	1 2 3 7 1 4 6 3 5 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	16:50 11:15 14:30 13:10 07:20	18:20 13:05 15:40 14:40 08:50	CZ3347 CA1383 CZ3343 CZ3345 CZ3341
Shenzhen — Wuhan	7 1 2 4	20:45 16:00	22:25 17:30	CZ3992 CZ3356
Wuhan — Shenzhen	7 1 2 4	18:15 13:10	19:50 14:50	CZ3991 CZ3355

(Valid Autumn 1993)

NEWS

New Airline in Beijing

A new airline called China International Travel Air Ltd., a joint venture between Air China and China International Travel Service, has opened in Beijing. On August 2 the airline launched its inaugural flight to the city of Yantai in Shandong Province using a Boeing 737. At present regular flights are scheduled between Beijing and Yantai, to be followed by Beijing-Datong-Shanghai and Beijing-Wuhan-Guilin flights. The airline will help to ease the pressure on air travel to tourist destinations within China, and will offer chartered flights as well.

More Places Open to Foreigners

Twenty-three additional places have recently opened to foreign tourists in Henan and Inner Mongolia, bringing the total number of open counties and cities in China from 896 to 919. Foreigners with valid visas or special residential permits can visit the following places without any special application.

Inner Mongolia: Yakeshi City;

Henan: The counties of Yongcheng, Xiayi, Ningling, Suixian, Zhecheng, Yucheng, Fugou, Luyi, Dancheng, Shenqiu, Xiangcheng, Xincai, Shangcai, Zhengyang, Huaibin, Gushi, Guangshan, Xihua, Biyang, Pingyu, Xinxian and Shangcheng.

More Air Routes Open

Two new charter flights have begun operation from Hong Kong to Hohhot in Inner Mongolia and from Hong Kong to Taiyuan in Shanxi. Organized by two Hong Kong travel agencies and the tourism bureaux of Inner Mongolia and Shanxi, the new charter flights began operation last month.

The Hong Kong-Hohhot flight carries 140 passengers in a Boeing 737-300 every Tuesday from each direction and lasts about three hours and 20 minutes. The Hong Kong-Taiyuan route has two return flights weekly every Tuesday and Saturday from each direction using Boeing 737-200 airplanes. With a capacity of 120 passengers, the flight lasts two and a half hours.

For reservations or information about flights to Hohhot, call CAAC Holidays Ltd. in Hong Kong at 92221033, and for flights to Taiyuan call China Merchants International Travel Services Ltd. in Hong Kong at 5412110.

New Road Built Up Mt. Huashan

A road is now being built to take tourists part-way up beautiful Mount Huashan, east of Xi’an in Shaanxi Province. The main peak of Mount Huashan is 2,160 metres high, but until now access has been difficult. The mountain’s steep cliffs and narrow paths have turned many visitors away in the past, while others enjoy the thrill and adventure of the climb to the summit.

The new road, due to be completed by the end of this year, will extend for 7.6 kilometres as far as a crevasse at the foot of the north peak, from where one can walk to the summit. Once the road is in use, visitors will be able to drive to the crevasse in just half an hour, as compared to seven or eight hours by foot. Plans are also underway to build a cable car to cross the crevasse and take visitors up to the peak in a matter of minutes.

World Peace Village in Zhejiang

The Qiandaohu Economic Development Zone in Zhejiang Province and the American company Bacon International are working together to build a World Peace Village on the islands in Qiandaohu (Thousand Islands) Lake. This large lake in Chun’an County has a great number of small islands, 100 of which have been chosen for use in the project. Each island will have exhibitions on the scenery and culture of a different country. The project will be built in stages, with the first stage, costing US$100 million, to be completed in a few years.

Zheng Banqiao Art Festival

This November the city of Xinghua in Jiangsu Province will be holding an art festival to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the famous artist and writer Zheng Banqiao, who lived here during the Qing Dynasty. Grouped as one of the “Eight Eccentric Artists of Yangzhou”, Zheng was known for his painting and poetry as well as his calligraphy. During the festival original examples of his work will be exhibited for the first time, performances will be held and there will be an international seminar on Zheng’s work.

More Archaeological Finds in Shaanxi

A 60-centimetre-long bronze dragon has been discovered in Fufeng County, about half-way between the cities of Baoji and Xi’an in Shaanxi Province. Dating back to about the 11th century B.C., it is the largest statue of its kind ever found in China. Weighing 19 kilograms, the dragon is believed to have been part of a large bronze tripod, an ancient symbol of imperial authority.

Suzhou Gets a Recreational City

The garden city of Suzhou in Jiangsu Province has a new tourist attraction, a recreational “city”. One of the city’s six sections, an aquatic entertainment park, opened to the public on August 8 and includes an 800-metre-long stream, water slides and lake tours. The other sections, to open later this year, are a holiday villa, the Wu Village, a golf arena, several islands and a lake.

Porcelain Art Garden Open

The city of Jingdezhen in the northeastern corner of Jiangxi Province has been known for its porcelain for 1,000 years, therefore it is a fitting location for Mingqingyuan, the new porcelain art garden just completed there. Covering a large area of 10,000 square metres, the garden houses porcelainware made since the Yuan Dynasty 700 years ago. To help visitors understand more about this ancient art, the garden has displays about the history and techniques of making porcelain products. Inside the garden are also Ming and Qing dynasty style buildings which have been moved there from nearby.

First Oriental Musical Instrument Museum in Shanghai

China’s first Oriental Musical Instrument Museum was built recently at the Shanghai Music Conservatory. More than 150 kinds of musical instruments from China, India, Thailand, Japan, Korea, Vietnam and other Asian countries are now on exhibit in the museum. Classified according to the type of instrument, there are stringed instruments, wind instruments, percussion instruments and others. The most ancient instrument in the collection is a whistle made of bone from the Hemudu Period (about 8,000 years ago). Some are originals and others are reproductions, such as a set of chimes with 26 bells, which is a reproduction of chimes found in the tomb of Marquis Zeng of the early Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.).

Sui Dynasty Buddhist Temple Found

The site of a sacred Buddhist temple built in the Sui Dynasty (581-618), called Shiji Temple, has been discovered in the ancient Taiping area of Xi’an in Shaanxi Province. During the Tang Dynasty (618-907) when Xi’an was the capital, this temple was a sacred site for Pure Land Buddhists. Now a university stands in the old Taiping area, and archaeologists have previously discovered there many Buddhist relics, the ruins of two buildings, pieces of frescoes, Buddhist classic texts and Tang-dynasty coins.

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NEXT ISSUE

CHINA'S FOUR GREAT BUDDHIST MOUNTAINS

In our next issue we will be taking a look at the four most important Buddhist mountains in China: Wutai Mountain in Shanxi Province, Emei Mountain in Sichuan, Jiuhua Mountain in Anhui and Putuo Mountain, located on a small island in Zhejiang Province. At each mountain a different Buddhist deity is worshipped, and each has its own long and fascinating history. Apart from their religious significance, these four mountains are also wonderful places for sightseeing, with ancient temples, pagodas, long mountain trails and fantastic scenery.

Wutai Mountain — the Foremost Buddhist Mountain in China

Samantabhadra Buddha's Mountain of Brightness

Ksitigarbha's Domain: The Splendid Scenery of Jiuhua Mountain

Putuo Mountain, a Buddhist Land in the Vast Sea

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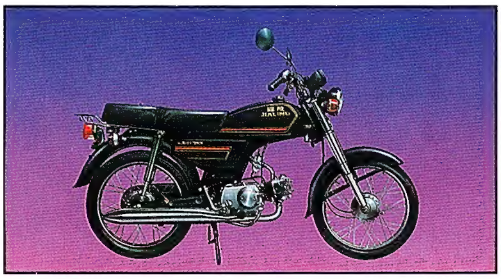
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INTRODUCTION TO CHINA JIALING INDUSTRY CO., LTD. (GROUP)

China Jialing Industry Co., Ltd. (Group) is the biggest motorcycle manufacturer in China and also an export-base enterprise for state mech-electrical products, and has a right to deal with own import and export business.

The main products of this corporation are series Jialing Brand Motorcycles such as CJ50-I, CJ50-II, CJ50F, JH50, JH70-I, JH70-II, JH125, JH125L, JH145 and their appliances. Besides, it also produces Jialing shotgun cartridges, industrial steel balls, bearings and complete set of equipment. Among these products, Models CJ50 and JH70 motorcycles were each awarded the state's highest silver prize, Model JH125 won the "JUNMA CUP" prize of the state new development products, and Jialing 12 gauge shotgun cartridges won the state's silver prize.

Now the corporation has been formed an annual capacity of more than 500,000 series motorcycles, 600,000 sets of key parts of engines with a displacement from 70cm^3 to 125cm^3, and 15,000,000 rounds of plastic case shotgun cartridges. Its products have been sold well at home and abroad, and all its economic indexes are ranked first in the similar domestic trade. In 1990, the corporation was assessed National First Grade Enterprise. In recent year it always keeps the title of 500 China large-scale enterprises and enjoys good reputation both in domestic and foreign markets.

Warmly welcome all friends at home and abroad to write, or telephone or come to visit our corporation for undertaking cooperative production, joint venture, compensation trade and processing and assembling operation according to materials and samples supplied.

China Jialing Industry Co., Ltd (Group)

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In addition, we have business dealing in local and foreign investment, advertising, information consultation and ship rentals. We provide all our clients with full warehouse servicing and packaging.

Our company has always honoured contracts and principles of mutual benefit and mutual development when dealing with our clients all over the world, which is one of the reasons for our company's excellent reputation.

Established in 1952, Ceroilfood Shandong Cereals & Oils Imp. & Exp. Company has had over 40 years of experience in doing trade and has become one of China's successful large-scale enterprises. Recently, we have established business relationship with more than 1,600 clients from more than 100 countries and regions. Our annual import & export turnover reached US$380 million in 1992. In 1991 & 1992, we were ranked 46th & 39th respectively, among China's 500 largest import & export enterprises.

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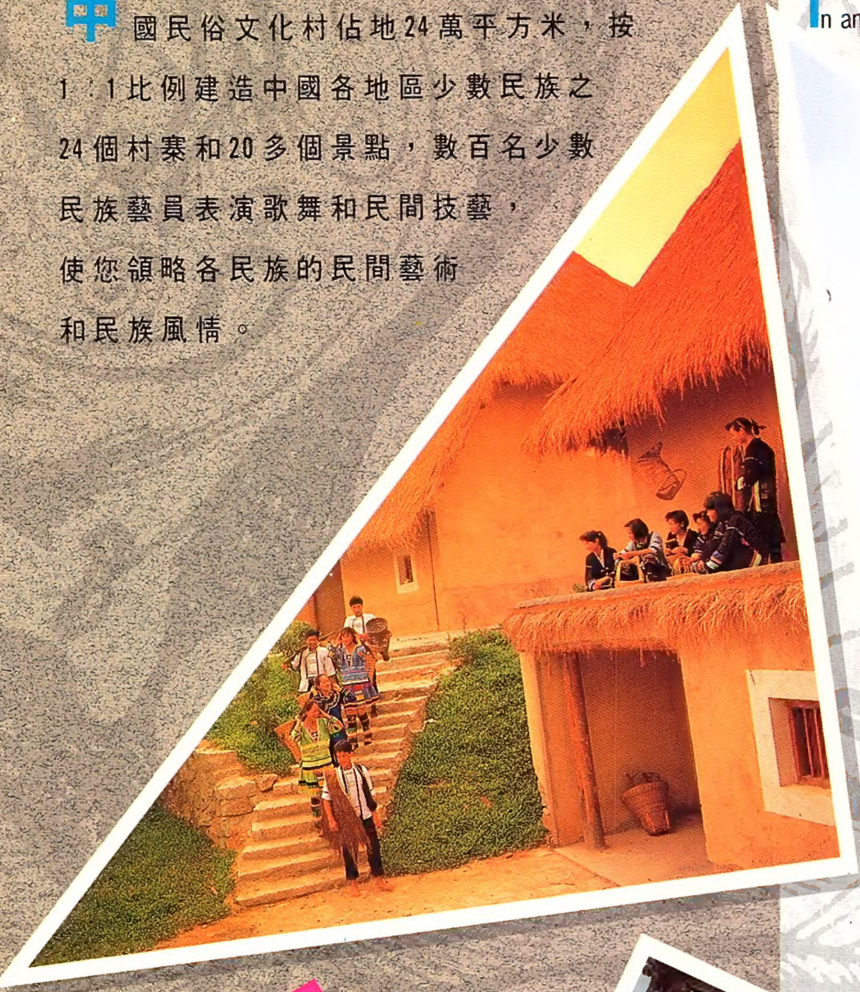

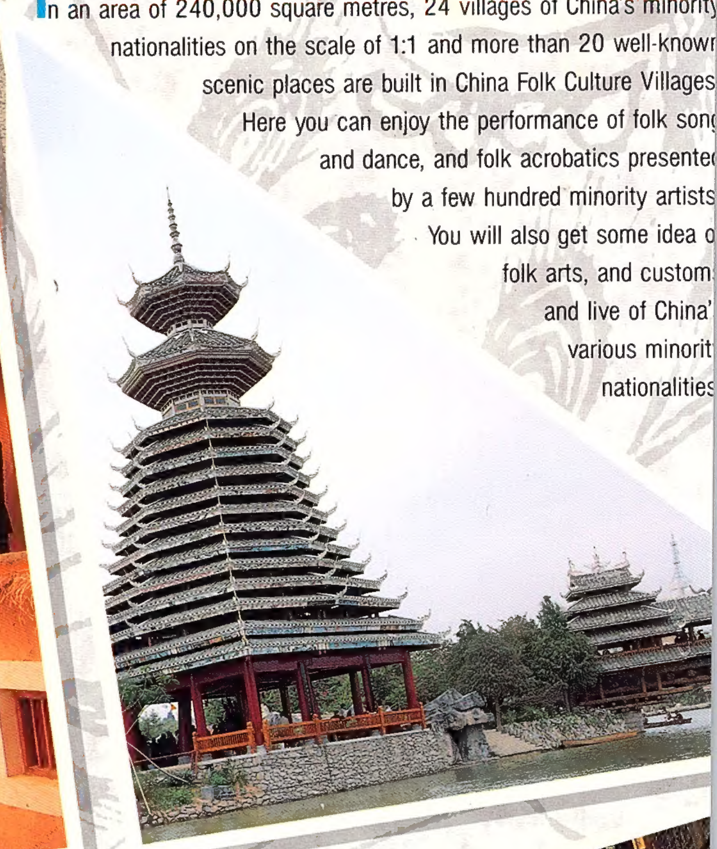

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